

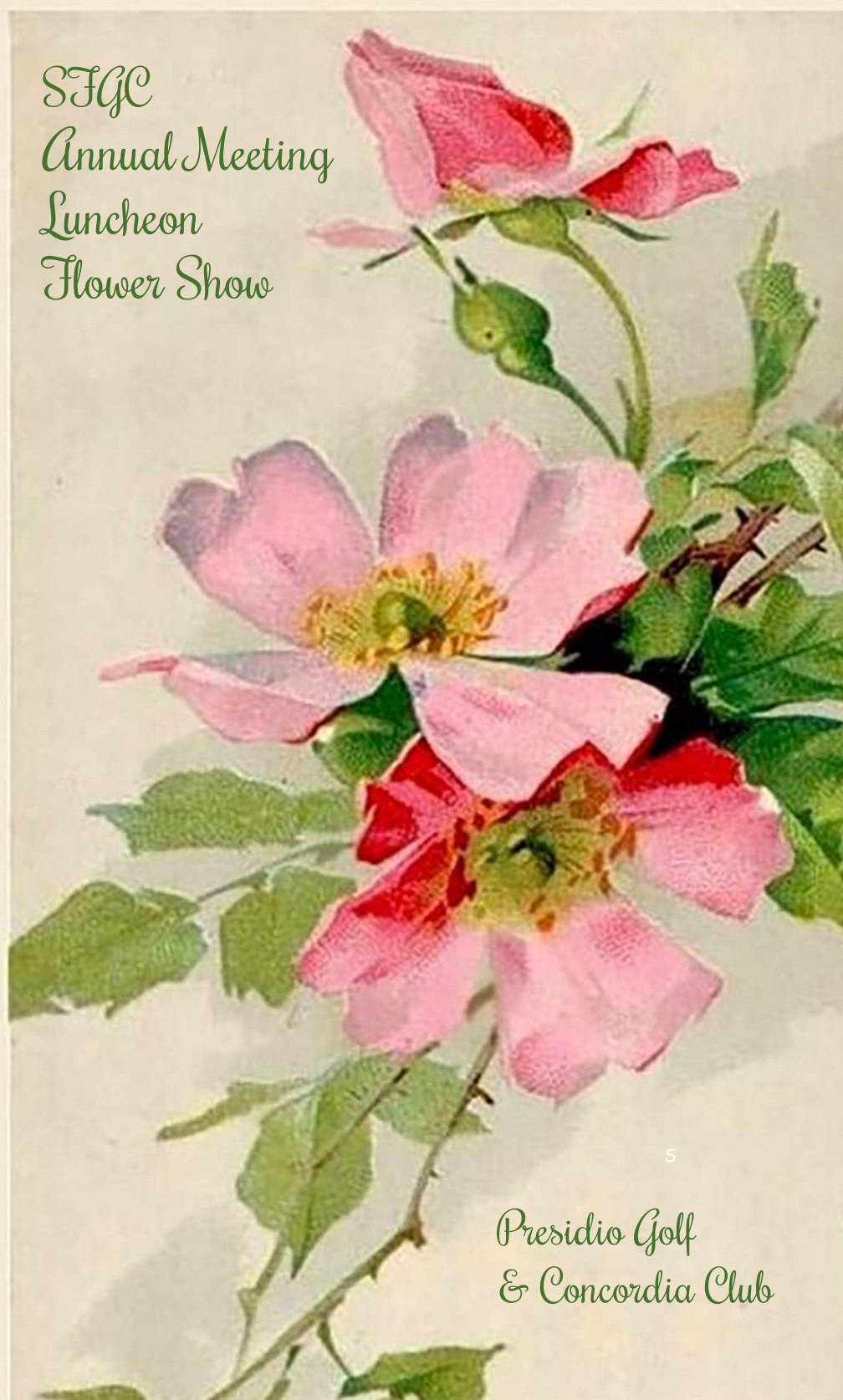


GARDEN GAZETTE

The San Francisco Garden Club

Early Summer
2023

SFGC
Annual Meeting
Luncheon
Flower Show



Presidio Golf
& Concordia Club

Calendar

May

Saturday May 6
Volunteer Day CCSF
9:00 am to Noon
Judson Avenue entrance

Sunday, May 14
Mothers' Day

Thursday, May 18 *
Annual Meeting/Luncheon
Presidio Golf &
Concordia Club



SFGC
ANNUAL MEETING
Luncheon/Flower Show

Thursday, May 18
Presidio Golf &
Concordia Club

The Flower Show
is a SFGC tradition
Consider contributing
an arrangement

Flower Show
sign-up form
is on Page 9

SFGC Event *

The President's Letter



It is with great pride but a little sadness that I find myself writing my President's Letter for the final time. It has been my honor to serve as your president these last three years. I have a few more gray hairs and have earned every one of them. From the pandemic lock-down through a fairly normal schedule today, it has indeed been an interesting time to be president of any organization.

What really encouraged me was the way this club held together! While most organizations were shutting down and even disbanding, the SFGC performed to its full potential. We even gained members!

For the record, in the past three years SFGC held 32 regular meetings/events with the first 20 as Zoom meetings. We also sponsored 16 tours, workshops and activities. It was thrilling for me to witness.

The board held 35 board meetings and I personally attended 66 committee meetings, some on Zoom and some in person, while responding to hundreds and hundreds of emails.

However, what truly inspired me was how – when asked – members and guests rose to the occasion through their financial contributions. Members responded every time they were asked! Without a fundraiser, this club showed its mettle by raising and donating nearly \$62,000. As of this year's Annual Meeting, since 2021 we will have awarded a total of \$25,000 in Alice Eastwood Scholarships, \$20,200 to the Botanical Garden for its nursery, flower piano and gala programs and \$27,500 in Civic Participation Awards to worthy local nonprofit organizations. In addition, several of our members also made significant personal donations to the Botanical Garden.

What an outstanding legacy you have provided for this club through your generosity. You have preserved our mission to beautify San Francisco and demonstrated a desire to assist programs that benefit the community. I am so proud of your passionate participation and accomplishments.

Without a competent and involved board, I could not have led this group throughout these trying years. Every year each new board worked diligently to set and achieve goals. We re-instituted new programs like the Consular Corps Guest Memberships and the Civic Participation Awards. We hired a bookkeeper to keep our financial records in order. Our website is active, although will forever be a work in progress. Board and committee chairs were resolute in completing their term in office with professionalism, energy, creativity, and productivity. I appreciate each and every one! We soldiered through together and accomplished what sometimes seemed impossible.

Yet to me, the most wonderful result of being your president was getting to meet and know all of you who love this Club. I leave office with scores of new friends that I will treasure forever.

Yours,

The true meaning of life is to plant trees under whose shade you never expect to sit. Nelson Henderson



National Garden Week

June 4-10, 2023

The pioneers of National Garden Week, National Garden Clubs, was established in 1891 with branches in 19 states. National Garden Clubs, headquartered in St. Louis, Missouri organizes community gardening projects as well as provides educational programs. They also produce a quarterly publication called "The National Gardener." In addition to all these, they offer college scholarships and grants for youth clubs planting pollinator gardens.

SFGC Board

PROPOSED SFGC SLATE FOR 2023 -2024

2023 Nominating Committee:

Chair Lisa Harris

Tish Brown, Jean Ellingsen, Eva Monroe and Barbara Traisman

President: Bonnie Demergasso

Corresponding Secretary: Beverley Hayes

Treasurer: Maureen Murray Fox

Director: Donna Coit

Director: Cheryl Minvielle

Slate to be approved at the May 18th SFGC Annual Meeting



SFCC CCSF Volunteer Day Saturday, May 6

9:00 am to Noon
Use Judson Avenue Entrance
375 Judson Avenue

*Bring gloves and bottled water
Gardening tools will be provided*

RSVP Gail McCollom,
gailmarymc@aol.com or
415-260-7980

City College of San Francisco Environmental
Environmental Horticulture/Floristry Department

Spring Flower and Plant Sale Scholarship Fundraiser

Thursday, May 11, 2023

11:00 AM-1:00 PM

375 Judson Avenue
north side of the Ocean Campus
Between Genessee and Foerster Streets

featuring student grown
shrubs
house and bedding plants
veggie starts
herbs
floral designs

sorry no pre/post sales
no special orders
cash or check only

information
415-239-3140

check out our programs @
www.ccsf.edu/eh/f

April Luncheon/Meeting



*Bonnie Demergasso,
Betty Voris*



Speaker Carol Porter



Carol Ede, Segrid Dedo



Marilyn Presten, Carmi Ticehurst



Elaine Laekin



Jean Ellingsen, Gail McCollom



*Anne Katz, Sally Ketchum,
Bonnie Demergasso*



*Theresia Treadway,
Sandy Haddad*



Lisa Harris, Cecy Jones Korematsu



Rose Pan, Natasha Hopkinson



Joanne Lindeke, Sigrid Dedo



Sandra Swanson



Moirá Conzulman



Lorraine Fulmer



Ann Holly



LaVerne Silverman

SFGC Activities

Cypress Lawn Tour • Photos by Lisa Harris



Japanese Tea Garden

*Photos by
Bonnie Demergasso
Betty Voris*

*Ly Ly, Susan Carothers, Stacey Schultz, Courtney Clarkson,
Theresia Treadway, Amy Quirk, Betty Voris, Steven Pendergast,
Bonnie Demergasso, Cynthia Woods, Sue Pemberton, Beverley Hayes*

*Bonnie Demergasso, Susan Carothers,
Ly Ly, Courtney Clarkson*



Steven Pendergast, Cynthia Woods



Sue Pemberton, Beverley Hayes



Stacey Schultz, Theresia Treadway, Ly Ly



Steven Pendergast



*Theresia Treadway,
Courtney Clarkson, Beverley Hayes*



*Plaque commemorates the original founder
George T. Marsh & the SFGC for restoring
the garden in 1960*



Cynthia Woods



Scenic view

The Marigold

Marigolds

The Real Story Behind Marigolds

by Dr. Judith Taylor



The marigold is the flower everyone loves to hate. It is loud and brassy, appeals to the lower and middle classes and is ridiculously easy to grow. Garden snobs deride its palette and sneer at its lack of horticultural challenge. I refer you to a hilarious book called “Yew and NonYew” by James Bartholomew to learn more about the absurdities of this set of people.

In fact *Tagetes erecta*, the “African” marigold and *T. patula*, the “French” marigold, do yeoman duty in all types of garden from the public park to the private estate. Gertrude Jekyll once famously said about the flower, “There are no bad plants. There is only a poor sort of gardener who uses them in the wrong way”. When David Lemon, a plant breeder who devoted a large part of his career to the marigold, visited Christopher Lloyd at Great Dixter, the amazing garden in Sussex which has rightly captured the imagination of anyone who cares about gardens, the latter greeted him cuttingly as “the marigold king.” David tells me it was meant unkindly.

Contrary to the above nomenclature the plant is solely endemic to Mexico and nowhere else. It has been so widely used that it naturalized itself in many countries, but they are not its point of origin. When the Spaniards invaded Mexico they found the local people using the plant for many purposes. They steeped the blossoms to make tea, used the stems as fuel, and claimed it had medicinal uses. It forms a huge part of the festival of Dia de los Muertos.

Unlike some other plant treasures that reached Europe in the sixteenth century, the marigold was more or less part of the wallpaper in the conquistadors’ minds. They could see no way to profit from it. As a result, I have not been able to pinpoint precisely when it first reached Europe. There is no question that it came early. In 1503 the army of Charles Fifth of Austria reported seeing it grow in North Africa.

Perhaps the most astonishing thing about the marigold is the way it became established in India. The Jesuits, who set up a mission in Goa and later the first non-European Inquisition in 1642, were outraged by its use in pagan ritual and banned it. That had very little effect. It is not known how marigolds reached India so early, but it is entrenched as the national flower to this day. No wedding, national holiday, or other celebration can occur without its appearing as huge swags draped over windows or tucked into wire framework like Chia seeds, creating an “elephant” or a “donkey.”

This is not the only non-garden use of this plant. Battery hens are fed a balanced diet but while it makes them grow adequately their flesh remains an unattractive white and the yolks of their eggs rather an unappetizing shade of pale yellow. Some enterprising farmers found that if you fed the hens with deep orange marigolds, they absorbed the pigment into their flesh and eggs. Thousands of acres are devoted to growing marigolds for this purpose.

For more information see the chapter in my book “Visions of Loveliness”

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The Marigold

Varying the Marigold part two

The “African” marigold, *Tagetes erecta*, is tall, brassy and uncompromising. Varying it has meant trying to tame its height and making it play better with the other flowers. Unkind critics have compared these flowers to “footballs on sticks.” In spite of that several brilliant flower breeders created lasting transformations which have flourished for decades.

One of the more unusual was accomplished by an amateur. Marigolds were always available at seed companies but were never at the forefront of sales. There are fashions in garden flowers just as there are in clothes. At the end of the nineteenth century and until about the First World War, sweet peas were the darlings of the trade.

David Burpee inherited his father’s seed business and was anxious to amplify the sales. He decided the next big rage would be the marigold. He was a consummate salesman and came up with some very good ideas. One was to set up a network of marigold societies for like-minded amateurs to compare notes. The other was to dangle a prize of \$10,000 in front of them, for the first person to introduce a perfect white marigold. He thought this was next to impossible and that his money was safe. Many people sent him ivory and cream colored flowers but he rejected them all.

It turned out he reckoned without the patience of a Mrs Alice Vonk, a farmer’s widow in Iowa. Just “dabbling” in her garden as she said, it took her twenty years but then it appeared in 1975, a snow white marigold.

Another of David Burpee’s ploys was to try and induce Congress to make the marigold the United States national flower instead of the rose. After all the marigold is native to the American continent. His company was in Illinois and the senior senator from Illinois at that time was Everett Dirksen, he of the gravelly voice and the immortal pronouncement about the budget, ” With a billion here and a billion there, pretty soon you are talking real money.” Between them they did their best but Congress never budged. Writing about his life later the senator’s widow said that thereafter he was always known as the “Honorable Mr. Marigold.”

There are very few women in the flower breeding business. One of them, working for the firm of Goldsmith in Gilroy, spent many years bringing out a series of attractive *T. erecta* under the name of ‘Jennie’, Mr. Goldsmith’s wife. Dr Matilde Holtrop was devoted to her work and never married. She was still alive when I began my research and sent me a lot of helpful information.

The “French” marigold, *T. patula*, is smaller and much more malleable when it comes to breeding. Through the years breeders have introduced a broad range of hues from pale yellow to deep bronze. No one has yet thought about trying to produce one in snow white.

Much of this work has been carried out in California. David Lemon of Lompoc, now almost ninety, won many awards and prizes for his *T. patula* series such as ‘French Boy’, ‘French Hero’ and many others. Despite its deceptively frail appearance, this is a tough plant. It can go on flowering even when the weather turns bad, a very useful characteristic. Christopher Lloyd addressing him as “Marigold Man” should be considered a badge of honor.

For more information see my “Visions of Loveliness: great flower breeders of the past”

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History Page

JANE SCURICH AND FAMED ARTIST GARY BUKOVNICK

articles by History Committee Chair Judy Field



“Just before the pandemic, I attended a lovely book release party at my neighbor, Frances’s, for Gary Bukovnick. He is truly delightful. Many of you may remember that Gary created a number of floral art prints for the Conservatory of Flowers reconstruction fundraising,” said Jane Scurich, explaining why she chose to write about Gary for the San Francisco Garden Club’s centennial history book. The Golden Gate Park Conservatory reconstruction project, chaired by past president Sandra Swanson, raised a major sum to restore the quake and wind-damaged Victorian landmark.

Gary also contributed art for invitations and publicity for the 25th Bouquets to Art Centennial, co-chaired by Martha Woollomes; and recently, a painting for the 2023 Bouquets to Art raffle, chaired by Tammy Braas-Hill, which is an original 54x40 inch watercolor painted in 2002, called “Amaryllis Symphony.”

“He came to our Forest Hill Garden Club many years ago and did a live demo of his exquisite watercolor work. He generously donated it to the club for an auction when finished. His beautiful watercolor paintings are displayed on the walls of Davies Symphony Hall,” recalled Eva Monroe.

Clearly, Gary has been a long-term friend to the San Francisco Garden Club, and Jane Scurich, a Master Gardener and popular Marin Independent Journal writer, has chosen a history book topic bringing special memories. Jane’s history piece will be accompanied by his paintings of roses displayed on San Francisco Garden Club posters.

WRITING FOR THE SFGC HISTORY BOOK

Club members are invited to draft stories about the 100-year-history of the San Francisco Garden Club from their memories or research materials. History Committee members will assist as needed, and Judith Taylor, an acclaimed author of seven horticultural books, will weave all contributions into our 2026 centennial book. This will create a lasting club treasure. To participate, members may write about a topic of their choice and be listed in the book as contributors.

For information contact Judy Field, San Francisco Garden Club History Committee Chair, at judithfield@comcast.net, or 415.349.9106

TIPS FOR WRITING A HISTORY PIECE

Begin with an introduction

Choose the most exciting event in the topic, and one that becomes a theme for the whole story. Include compelling details about people wherever possible.

Example:

It was 1906 and the earthquake and fire had just struck San Francisco, where Alice Eastwood, famed Curator of Botany at the California Academy of Sciences rushed into the Academy’s unsafe building. Using ropes she carefully lowered hundreds of diverse plant specimens to the ground to safety. Unfortunately, when she returned home all personal possessions of this courageous woman had been burned.

Next start at the beginning of the story and tell it chronologically.

Example:

- Alice Eastwood was born in 1839, and at age six when her mother died, she was shuttled among relatives.
- Educated in the public schools of Denver, Colorado, she became a high school teacher from 1880-1890.
- She visited San Francisco as a tourist and stayed, gaining employment at the California Academy of Sciences, and rising to the position of Curator of Botany in 1892.
- Her enthusiasm in the articles and books she wrote gave charm and personality to plants, inspiring creation of the Fuchsia Society, Orchid Society, and in 1926, the San Francisco Garden Club.

After the chronology of events is complete, end with the theme, through a summary, question, quotation, or future prediction that relates to the beginning.

Example:

“We wouldn’t have the rare plant specimens in our collection today if Alice Eastwood, our famed and persevering curator, hadn’t risked her life to go into the dangerous Academy building and save them,” said John Doe, current California Academy of Sciences Director.

Spring Finale



Spring Finale

Flower Show & Silent Auction 2023

Co Chairs Janis Burke & Janet Cushing

Thursday, May 18

Show & Silent Auction 10:30 am to 11:45 am

Luncheon begins at 12:00 pm • Meeting to follow

Presidio Golf and Concordia Club

Cost: \$69

Menu: Crusted Salmon fillet • Herbed Tomato Tart • Optional Drink ticket \$12

RSVP via payment by May 7th

PayPal, Zelle, the SFGC website: www.sfgardenclub.com

or a check sent to the SFGC office

640 Sutter Street, 4M • San Francisco, CA 94102

Sign up to be part of the fun and contribute to the success of the event

Complete the form below and email to jmburke@gmail.com

Please reply by May 15th

It is a SFGC tradition that members bring floral displays and specimen cuttings for display in our Annual Flower Show. Available for the highest bid, any of these designs or specimens can add beauty to your home or make a spectacular gift. Plan to arrive early so you can peruse the florals and decide which you might choose for your favorite acquisition(s).

.....

Spring Finale Flower Show

San Francisco Garden Club's Annual Flower Show Entry

Name _____

Phone _____ Email: _____

Please specify which division you will enter

Horticulture (Garden specimen) _____ Design (arrangement) _____

I will contribute BOTH my design/specimen and container to the auction _____

I will contribute ONLY my design/specimen (no container) to the auction _____

San Francisco Garden Club
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Phone: (415) 771-0282
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Garden Gazette

Early Summer 2023

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Betty Packard Voris

OFFICERS

President: Betty Packard Voris

Vice President: Bonnie Demergasso

Recording Secretary: Verona Boucher

Corresponding Secretary: Beverley Hayes

UPCOMING EVENTS AND DONATION OPPORTUNITIES

Zoom Meetings/Programs begin at 1:00 pm
In person Lunch/Meetings/Programs;
Social: 11:30 • Lunch: 12:15

Thursday, May 18

SFGC Annual Meeting & Flower Show

Flower Show: begins at 10:30 • Lunch: 12:00

Meeting to follow

Presidio Golf & Concordia Club

Menu: *Crusted Salmon or*

Herbed Vegetable/Tomato Tart

Cost: \$69 per person

RSVP by May 7

Mark your calendars

May 18

**Annual Meeting
FLOWER SHOW**

*Joignez-vous à la fête
and design an arrangement
to contribute to the
Flower Show*

Name: _____

Phone # _____

Ways to Pay:

- Check sent the SFGC Office
- PayPal or Zelle
- Zelle using button on SFGC website: sfgc@att.net

Links: [PayPal.com](https://www.paypal.com) [zellepay.com](https://www.zellepay.com)

DONATIONS

_____ San Francisco Garden Club

_____ Alice Eastwood Fund

_____ In Memory/Honor of: _____

GRAND TOTAL

SFGC OFFICE

640 Sutter Street 4M,

San Francisco, 94102

Phone: 415-771- 0282 • Email: sfgclub@att.net

PLEASE INFORM THE

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY Beverley Hayes

(Email: beverleyhayes@sbcglobal.net)

of membership news regarding births, illness, or death,
so that the appropriate card may be sent.

The San Francisco Garden Club is a 501c3 organization