



# GARDEN GAZETTE

*The San Francisco Garden Club*

Late Winter  
2023

The San Francisco Garden Club hosts  
International Floral Designer

## Hiroto Inoue

Thursday, March 16  
Metropolitan Club

Presentation & Luncheon  
10:00 am

### Calendar

#### February

Thursday, February 16\*

Past Presidents' Luncheon  
Presidio Golf &  
Concordia Club

Tuesday, February 14  
Valentine's Day

#### March

Thursday March 16\*

"Floral Fête"

SFGC Hosts International  
Floral Designer Hiroto Inoue  
Metropolitan Club

#### April

Thursday April 20 \*

Luncheon meeting  
Presidio Golf  
& Concordia Club

#### May

Thursday, May 18 \*

Annual Meeting/Luncheon  
Presidio Golf &  
Concordia Club



*Special Annual Event*

Past Presidents' Luncheon  
Presidio Golf & Concordia Club

Thursday, February 16

Program

**Steven Brown**

*SFGC Past Presidents  
will be honored*

*SFGC Event\**

# The President's Letter



**G**ung Hay Fat Choy! I always enjoy the lunar new year –sometimes even more than our traditional new year's celebrations. I love the parades, the fireworks, and the spontaneous celebrations which honor the Chinese and Asian cultures. I love wandering the streets of Chinatown, eating great dim sum and other delicacies. But most of all I love the lion dancers who bring such joy to the streets and occasions.

This time of year also gives me an opportunity to indulge in the busy and exciting events planned for the second half of our club year. Once again we celebrate past presidents and have the privilege of watching Steven Brown and students create unique and glorious florals during our February 16th luncheon meeting. Flower Market badges will also be distributed to members who ordered or renewed for 2023.

In March Lisa Harris welcomes internationally acclaimed floral designer Hiroto Inoue from Japan as a presenter to our invitation-only March 16 spectacular event at the Metropolitan Club. His delightful charm and witty nature have earned him the nickname "Funny." His latest book titled "Funny Style" displays innovative designs that perfectly balance man-made and natural materials, structure, and spontaneity. It is said his floral creations pair an incredible sensitivity with impeccable technique. The San Francisco Garden Club is thrilled to be able to bring this floral genius to the Bay Area.

A special thank you to all who put up with my antics while selling the last of our books at our Christmas luncheon. The end result: over \$1300 in book sales for our various project funds.

The new year brought new Consulate Generals to the Bay Area. Don't hesitate to introduce yourself and welcome their wives who enjoy attending our luncheons and activities. They are a gracious and delightful group, eager to know more about us and our activities.

The weather interfered with our New Members' reception in our club offices. It is being rescheduled so that the greatest number of new members over the past two years can officially be welcomed. It is such a thrill to have them as members and each needs to be fully recognized. Also, if you know of someone who should be a member, bring them to a meeting, and let's get them on board. Cheryl Minvielle is our membership director and will be happy to chat with them.

We have two exciting committees hard at work. The Civic Participation Committee, again under the guidance of Donna Coit, is collecting information and grant proposals from interested Bay Area nonprofits. If you know of a wonderful nonprofit looking for extra funds for nature-oriented activities, be sure and tell Donna about it. In the past, we have given to schools wanting to start gardens, shelters wanting to grow their own fruits/vegetables, and public areas needing re-imagining with plants. The list goes on and on.

Tammy Braas-Hill is again coordinating the Alice Eastwood Awards. Promotional posters have gone up at CCSF. Her committee has been formed and ready for interviews. Awards will be presented at the annual meeting in May.

Courtney Clarkson is waiting for the rains to subside so she can sponsor some amazing activity tours. Stay tuned for eblast announcements of the several being planned. Also, the nominating committee has been selected and will soon begin consideration for new club officers who will be elected in May. If you are called, please consider joining the official club team.

We really try to keep up with births, deaths, illnesses, and injuries involving members. Please contact Beverley Hayes with any information. We love to send cards of good wishes and concern.

If you know of a member who is not getting our eblasts, emails or Garden Gazette, please contact Martha Woollomes. People often change their emails and forget to notify us. We need to keep them in the loop.

As I watched my Christmas tree being taken to the curb for mulching, I remembered the happy times of the past holiday with a little wistfulness. Then I noticed the grass is green, our gardens are flourishing and I became aware of the magnolias blooming at the Botanical Garden. My phone was full of messages and I realized that it was a new time for making memories. Won't you join me as we create them in these last months of our club year?

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Betty".



*"Should you shield the canyons from the windstorms, you would never see the true beauty of their carvings." Elisabeth Kubler-Ross*

# Floral Fête, March 16

Floral Fête with Hiroto Inoue hosted by the San Francisco Garden Club

## SFGC to Host Highly Acclaimed International Floral Designer Hiroto Inoue

*"My constant quest is reaching for the fusion of inspiration and materials gained from nature."*

Hiroto Inoue, whose delightful charm and witty nature have earned him the nickname, "Funny", excels in his deep passion for floral design—melding his finely honed geometric and architectural skills with the beauty of all things horticultural. His delicate and intricate works, often seeming to defy gravity, are a true marvel of beauty. Hiroto's emphasis is on using native materials from Japan in his floral art, such as handmade Japanese Washi paper, Kyogi (thin wooden slats) and bamboo skins.

### In Hiroto's Own Words



*"I studied architectural engineering in school and worked at a construction company in that capacity for ten years. During this time I discovered floral design, first focusing on geometric design followed by vegetal design. After retiring from the construction company, I opened a flower shop and worked mainly on wedding floral decoration. Currently, I focus on workshops and the running my shop."*

*"Vegetal design has strongly influenced my subsequent work, and my constant quest is reaching for the fusion of inspiration and materials gained from nature. Moreover, I am strongly interested in Japanese materials, and am known for using it in my floral art. Even though I especially use paper, I also use many other materials."*

*"I have participated in many international floral competitions, and look forward to continuing my travels for teaching abroad." – Hiroto Inoue*

**10:00 A.M. Presentation and Luncheon  
Metropolitan Club**

**Invitation Only**

**Please Contact the SFGC at: [sfgclub@att.net](mailto:sfgclub@att.net)**



# December Luncheon/Meeting



*Amy Vassar • Holiday Luncheon Program Presenter*



*SFGC President Betty Voris*



*Gail McCollom, Jane Scurich,  
Sandy Haddad*



*Carol Ede*



*Anne Katz, Courtney Clarkson,  
Toni Heineman*



*Barbara Traisman,  
Sandra Swanson*



*Bonnie Demergasso,  
Sally Ketchum*



*Yuko Noguchi*



*Elaine Larkin*



*Linda Miller, Janet Cushing*



*Courtney Clarkson, Carol Ede*



*Elaine Oldham*



*Lisa Harris*



*Theresa Treadway,  
Merilyn Presten*

# December Luncheon/Meeting



*Sandy Haddad*



*Leslie Fitzpatrick*



*Loraine Fulmer*



*Verona Boucher*



*Marty Clarke, Joanne Lindeke*



*Theresa Treadway,  
Beverley Hayes*



*Sandra Swanson,  
Brooke Bedingfield*



*Rose Pan & guest*



*Mary Lou Fink*



*Loraine Fulmer,  
Jane Evans, Gail McCollom*



*Dorothy Praeger & guest Betty*



*Anne Holly*



*Centerpiece*



*Flowers for arrangements*



*Amy Vassar Arrangement*

# Spring Flower

## Daffodils

by Dr. Judith M. Taylor

A daffodil is a daffodil, right? Not so fast. There are at least a dozen separate groups of varieties under the heading of *Narcissus*, the correct name for the genus. The large golden yellow trumpets which we associate with this flower (Wordsworth and his “host”) are the most common but there are exquisite types with white petals and bright red centres, *N. poeticus*, for example. Breeders have seized upon all the naturally varying species to give us a huge number of gorgeous cultivars. Nowadays one can buy fragrant double daffodils, pink and orange cultivars, daffodils with considerable personality. Reading the catalogues is a joyous occupation.

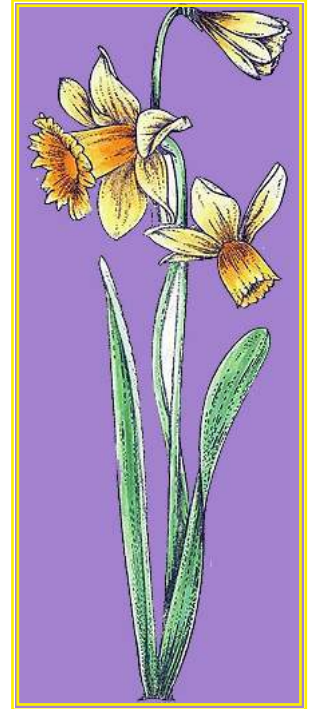
Ellen Willmott (1858 – 1934) was a most eccentric Englishwoman whose entire life was dominated by gardening. Born into a prosperous family and fortunate in having a really wealthy godmother who gave her huge sums of money every year on her birthday she could do whatever she wished without having to get permission from any man. Her complacent father let her reconstruct their family garden without any restrictions other than not making too much noise near his study.

What she wanted to do was breed daffodils. Every year she crossed the varieties she had in mind. When the new plants emerged she paid the children of her numerous gardeners to run about in the woods near her garden and scatter the bulbs randomly. The bulbs thrived and very quickly naturalized. Daffodil breeders were a very close knit group and there was a lot of mutual help. Miss Willmott frequently exchanged bulbs with the Reverend William Engleheart. He in his turn named one of his cultivars for her.

Miss Willmott was one of the few women members of the Royal Horticultural Society. The leaders spotted her talents and put her on the *Narcissus* committee, all otherwise male. She and Gertrude Jekyll were the first two recipients of the new Victoria Medal of Honor awarded by the society in 1897. She is remembered for many achievements but in the field of *Narcissus* her cultivars in the *N. triandrus* species are the best known. At some point we should return to her story.

Another woman stands out in this history. There had been a sort of “holy grail” among breeders to produce a truly pink daffodil, the same kind of thing as the elusive blue rose. What are called blue roses today are a kind of dull greyish mauve but there really are pink narcissus. The first person to breed one was Mrs Robert Backhouse, 1857 - 1921, whose husband’s family had owned the prominent Backhouse Nursery in York for at least three generations. She worked very hard at crossing possible parents for a pink narcissus but when she finally achieved it she died before the flower could be made widely available. Her grieving husband named the new cultivar *N. ‘Mrs R.O. Backhouse’* in the tradition of the era. Her actual name was Sarah Elizabeth.

These are only two of the formidable people who devoted their lives to a widely loved flower.



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Happy Valentine's Day  
February 14



# Alice Eastwood/Activities

## Alice Eastwood Awards

*Chair Tammy Braas-Hill*

*The San Francisco Garden Club established the Alice Eastwood Scholarship Awards in honor of Miss Eastwood's ninetieth birthday in 1949. The first award, \$100.00, went to the outstanding horticulture students at San Francisco City College. The SFGC has honored Alice Eastwood through the Award every year since 1949. Innumerable SFCC Horticulture/Floristry Award recipients have become very successful as well as eminent in their fields.*

*For 2023, Chair Tammy Braas-Hill has begun the process of choosing the Award winners and has proposed the following schedule.*

### Tentative Alice Eastwood Schedule

- 1<sup>st</sup> AE Meeting on Tuesday, March 28, 2023
- AE Application due on Friday, April 21, 2023
- 2<sup>nd</sup> AE Meeting on Tuesday, April 25, 2023  
Review & discuss student's applications
- AE student interviews on Tuesday, May 2, 2023 (meeting to follow)
- AE Award Presentation at the SFGC Annual Meeting/Luncheon on Thursday, May 18, 2023

**APPLY NOW!**



**ALICE  
EASTWOOD  
AWARDS**  
Supporting CCSF  
students for 74 Years!

The Alice Eastwood Awards are given to outstanding students in Floristry, Horticulture and Botany at City College of San Francisco. Applications are available online and are due by 12:00 noon on Friday, April 21, 2023. If you have any questions please contact Department Head, Steven Brown. GOOD LUCK!

SBROWN@CCSF.EDU

## Activities

*by Chair Courtney Clarkson*

*I am planning two types of activities for the Garden Club. One, I am calling "PopUps" because there won't be more than a week or 10 days notice. You could tour the sites on your own, but it would be fun to go with GC friends. Other activities will be scheduled for later in the year. If an activity must be rescheduled because of the weather, check GC emails for updates. Please direct comments, suggestions and questions to Courtney at courtneysclarkson@gmail.com or 415-309-0975.*

### Planned Activities

1. **Tunnel Tops Park** tour with Richard Turner who spoke to the SFGC a couple of years ago. Beginning of February PopUp.
2. **CNPS Sunset Blvd. site.** The SFGC gave them a Civic Participation Grant last year. Mid February PopUp.
3. **Cypress Lawn Arboretum** tour with Director, Josh Gevertz, and their consulting arborist, Roy Leggitt. This will probably be on their bus and will include a light lunch. Tentative date is February 25.
4. **Japanese Tea Garden** tour with the Garden Supervisor Steven Pitsenbarger. Date will be timed to see the cherry blossoms at the end of March or beginning of April.

*All of these possibilities will be planned for mid-morning on Saturday so that working SFGC members can participate*

## Past Presidents' Luncheon

### Thursday, February 16

Presidio Golf & Concordia Club

Social: 11:30 • Lunch: 12:15 • Program to follow

Program

**Steven Brown**

Menu Choices:

Chicken Enchilada or Fiesta Bowl

Cost: \$69 • RSVP by February 6



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## *Garden Gazette*

### *Late Winter 2023*

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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, February 16

Luncheon/Program (Past Presidents)

Presidio Golf & Concordia Club

**Menu:** Chicken enchilada with corn tortillas,  
red sauce, chopped chilis and shredded cheese  
or, Vegetarian: Fiesta Bowl with rice, black beans,  
pico de gallo, roasted vegetables, shredded  
cheese and crema drizzle.

Lemon Bar Royal

**Cost:** \$69 • RSVP by February 6

##### Thursday, March 16

**Hiroto Inoue Invitation-only Presentation**

Metropolitan Club at 10 am

**Menu:** Lobster Bisque

Cobb Salad or Trick Dog Kale Salad

Sorbet with biscotti

**Tickets:** \$200 • Patron levels: \$500 and \$1000

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Check Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_ Credit Card: (MC) \_\_\_\_\_ (Visa) \_\_\_\_\_

Or pay with PayPal or Zelle at sfgclub@att.net

#### DONATIONS

\_\_\_\_\_ San Francisco Garden Club

\_\_\_\_\_ Alice Eastwood Fund

\_\_\_\_\_ In Memory/Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

GRAND TOTAL \_\_\_\_\_

#### SFGC OFFICE

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**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.