



GARDEN GAZETTE

The San Francisco Garden Club

**Late Spring
2024**

SFGC Luncheon/Meetings April 18 Annual Meeting May 16

New Zealand Tea Tree

Calendar

April

Saturday, April 11

CCSF Volunteer day
9:30 am to noon

Thursday, April 18

SFGC Meeting/Luncheon
Presidio Golf & Concordia Club

April 22 - 26

Lotusland Retreat

May

Thursday, May 16

SFGC Annual
Meeting /Luncheon
Presidio Golf & Concordia Club

Mark your Calendars

April Meeting /Luncheon

April 18

*Program: Irving Penn
Presenter
Marsha Holm*



*SFGC
Annual
Meeting /Luncheon
May 16*

*Floral Silent Auction
Award winners
Vote to approve
the proposed 2024/2025
Board of Directors*

President's Letter



Hello Members,

How wonderful it was to have Katherine Glazier for our lunch last month and to see so many of you there. The San Francisco Garden Club is growing, and it is thrilling to see, as that was one of my main goals when I became president. I appreciate all of you who have brought in new members and board members for all they have done to enroll them. Soon we will have our new board announced and we can expect new and wonderful programs for next year.

Mark your calendar for April 18th, next month's luncheon. Please sign up now. The program promises to be great with a museum docent sharing the back story on Irving Penn and his career. Last month, once again, we had 3 people show up who were not on our list. We try hard to support the caterer and we want everyone to have a seat at the table!

Our Annual Giving is coming along. A huge Thank You to all who have supported our philanthropic work. We truly appreciate your generosity. We will soon announce the funds available for our recipients. Please be sure to attend our Annual Meeting, May 16th, when awards are given and the new board is introduced..... AND when members make or bring arrangements or plants to auction. Proceeds will benefit next year's funds. I look forward to seeing you at both meetings. *Bonnie*

*The Atherton Garden Guild is pleased to invite San Francisco Garden Club members
to the Guild's Garden Tour on Wednesday, May 15, 2024*

You are Invited

Atherton Garden Guild Garden Tour

May 15, 2024

Welcome to My Garden

Enjoy touring four lovely gardens the afternoon of
Wednesday, May 15
12:30 pm - 4:30 pm

This first-time private tour will feature the "Gardener's Garden"

Tickets are \$40 each

RSVP with check sent to:
Atherton Garden Guild

288 Atherton Avenue, Atherton CA 94027

or through: AthertonGardenTour.eventbrite.com

If paying by check, please include your email
so that a receipt can be sent to you

The monies raised will be used for the Atherton Garden Guild Civic Donation Fund

Meetings & Event

April 18 SFGC Program

Irving Penn Exhibition

at the Fine Arts Museums San Francisco



Irving Penn was one of the twentieth century's great photographers, known for his arresting images and masterful printmaking. Although he was celebrated as one of Vogue magazine's top photographers for more than sixty years, at a time when photography was primarily understood as a means of communication, he approached it with an artist's eye and expanded the creative potential of the medium, both in his professional and personal work.

Program Speaker

Marsha Holm has been a docent with the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco since 1979. In addition to giving tours and lectures in all areas of the museums' collections, from Africa to the Pacific Islands, from the Americas to Europe, she has served in several administrative capacities, including new and continuing education for FAMSF docents. She has also assisted in training docents at the Blackhawk Museum, the Oakland Museum and the San Jose Museum of Art in addition to the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco.

Annual Meeting

May 16

Celebrate the finale of the San Francisco Garden Club year

Vote to approve the proposed 2024/2025 Board of Directors

Participate in the traditional Silent Auction of member floral arrangements

Meet the recipients of SFGC Alice Eastwood and Civic Participation awards

Consider donating an arrangement or plant to the Silent Auction

Board Positions to be approved at the Annual Meeting

President (1 year)

Director (2 years)

Vice President (2 years)

Director (2 years)

Corresponding Secretary (1 year)

Director (1 year)

Recording Secretary (2 years)



Mark your calendars for the Annual Gala in the Gardens

The Gala now supports the Botanical Garden, the Japanese Tea Garden and the Conservatory of Flowers programs that serve visitors from all over the world!



The members of the SFGC have a time-honored tradition of sponsoring a table at the Luncheon Gala for many years.

Join us in the Celebration Garden located inside the 55 acres of the Botanical Garden for a sumptuous lunch and program to benefit our 3 celebrated gardens in Golden Gate Park

Saturday, May 18

11:00 am - 2:00 pm

\$500 a ticket. Seats go quickly!

For more details, follow the Gala in the Garden 2024 Gardens of Golden Gate Park here: gggp.org/gala/

March Luncheon



Jenny Chu Lee, Katherine Glazier



Presenter Katherine Glazier



Bonnie Demergasso, Betty Voris



Arrangement



Elaine Oldham, Susan Johnson



Judy Field, Jean Ellingsen



*Lavonne Harlan, Eva Monroe,
Anne Katz*



Maureen Fox, LaVerne Silverman



Jane Scurich



Janet Cushing



Moir Conzelman



Sally Ketchum



*Toni Wittenmeier, Eva Monroe,
Sandy Haddad*



*Sylvia Cros, Verona Boucher,
Ruth Wolfe*



Elaine Larkin



Verona Boucher, Gail McCollom

March Luncheon & Walk



*Sandra Swanson,
Natasha Hopkinson*



Maureen Fox



Merilyn Presten



Arrangement



Adrienne Moser, Jane Storseter



Ruth Wolfe, Martha Woollomes



Eva Monroe, Jung Eun Ha



Verona Boucher

*SFGC
Magnolia Walk
in the Gardens
of Golden Gate Park
led by
Garden Director,
Joe Rothleutner*

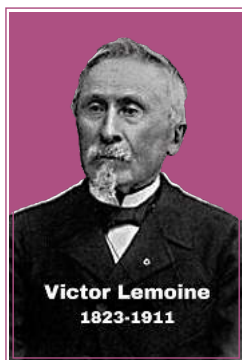


Horticulture Page

Victor Lemoine

Nineteenth century flower breeder on a heroic scale

by Judith M. Taylor



Victor Lemoine, 1823 – 1911, was a French flower breeder who worked on a heroic scale in the mid 19th century and I believe led to the vast expansion of commercial floriculture we see now. He was an almost unique person because of his vision and the perseverance required to bring that to fruition. He was the developer of the so-called “French lilacs” but that was not his principal activity. Even his friends complained that he introduced too many new cultivars each year. As an example he developed more than two hundred cultivars of lilac.

Lemoine was born in a small village in the Eastern part of France. His father and grandfather were head gardeners on great estates and somewhat more prosperous than the average working gardener of the time. They could afford to send him to school until he was seventeen. Even then he did not start working immediately but spent time as an apprentice to some of the significant horticulturists in Europe. They taught him many important techniques, including how to cross one flower with another, to breed a new variety. He was profoundly influenced by the Belgian breeder Louis Van Houtte, 1810 – 1876, who was also much larger than life.

With all this valuable knowledge under his belt he chose a piece of land in the nearby town of Nancy to open his own nursery in 1843. The town was growing as more and more silk manufacturers opened factories. They made money and wanted to adorn their new-mes with a striking garden. Lemoine was very shrewd in money matters.

Within a couple of years he began to make his mark on the national horticulture scene. The first time he was mentioned in a horticultural journal was to notice the new cultivar of purslane, (portulaca now) he had introduced. The next genus he tackled was pelargonium. He saw great potential and developed the big scarlet grenadier like plants which march across our parks and street scapes. Year after year he introduced new versions of existing plants like gladioli, daphne and weigela.

In 1870 Prussia attacked France and besieged many cities, leading to famine. Monsieur Lemoine and his wife decided to breed a new type of lilac as a way to distract themselves from this tragedy. The first year they only succeeded in obtaining seven seeds but the project gained momentum and eventually dozens of new cultivars emerged.



Madame Lemoine Lilac

It is a mystery why no one has written a biography of Lemoine. Lemoine became very well known both in France and later abroad during his lifetime, ultimately receiving the coveted Veitch Medal from the Royal Horticultural Society in London but was then forgotten. Reviving his memory pays him homage and restores him to his rightful place in history.

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Beautiful Wisteria in Stephanie Angeli's Garden



Painting Workshop

A Sonoma Workshop with Artist Thalia Stratton

by *Eva Monroe*



About the Artist

Born in the United States as well as being a world traveler throughout her life, acclaimed painter Thalia Stratton has experienced that rare cultural mix of Europe and California. Ms. Stratton credits the European sense of elegance, style and cultural history with having a profound influence on her work. <https://www.thaliastratton.com>

A Sonoma Workshop in Oils

On a rainy weekend this past January 2024, SFGC President Bonnie Demergasso opened her beautiful art and antiques-filled Sonoma home to 6 aspiring SFGC artists to learn from the oil painting master herself. We were the lucky auction bidders for this workshop at a Fall 2023 program featuring Thalia and her work.

Bringing in all the equipment and materials needed to create our own “masterpiece” Thalia proceeded to lead us through an intense but fun filled day of oil painting. Inside a light-filled studio like setting, we were surrounded by the beauty of vineyards and gardens as the sun and rain played hide and seek among the clouds.

Bonnie provided a hearty lunch and delicious snacks throughout the day to keep our artistic juices flowing. Thalia circulated amongst us, tirelessly providing individual help. We can't wait for the next opportunity to exercise our artistic options and escape again into the world of painting!



San Francisco Garden Club
640 Sutter Street 4M
San Francisco, CA 94102
Phone: (415) 771-0282
Email: sfgclub@att.net

Garden Gazette

Late Winter 2024

EDITOR & LAYOUT

Martha Woollomes

CONTRIBUTERS & PHOTOS

Stephanie Angeli, Bonnie Demergasso,
Beverley Hayes, Maureen Fox, Eva Monroe,
Dr. Judith Taylor, Betty Voris, Martha Woollomes

PROOF READERS

Bonnie Demergasso
Eva Monroe, Jane Scurich,
Betty Voris

OFFICERS

President: Bonnie Demergasso
Recording Secretary: Verona Boucher
Corresponding Secretary: Beverley Hayes
Treasurer : Maureen Murray Fox

UPCOMING EVENTS AND DONATION OPPORTUNITIES

Lunch/Meetings/Programs: Social 11:30 • Lunch 12:15

Saturday, April 11

Volunteer Day CCSF
9:30 am - noon
50 Judson Stree
Bring your gloves and water and join other Garden Club members for a morning gardening in the nurseries - replanting orchids, trimming plants, weeding or whatever Steven asks/needs. Easy street parking. Mid-morning coffee and snacks provided.
RSVP: Gail McCollom, gailmarymc@aol.com.

Thursday, April 18

SFGC Meeting/Luncheon
Presidio & Concordia Club
Menu: Mediterranean salad
with chicken or Arugula Beet salad (VG)
Cost: \$69 each
RSVP by April 8th - \$10 late fee

Thursday, May 16

Annual Meeting
Presidio & Concordia Club
Menu: TBD
Cost: \$69 each
RSVP by May 6th - \$10 late fee

Name: _____

Phone # _____

Ways to Pay

- Check sent to the SFGC Office
- On the SFGC website: sfgardenclub.com
- Through Zelle or PayPal

Donations

_____ The San Francisco Garden Club General Fund
_____ The Alice Eastwood Fund
_____ Civic Participation Fund
_____ In memory of _____

GRAND TOTAL

SFGC OFFICE

640 Sutter Street 4M
San Francisco, 94102
Phone: 415-771- 0282 • Email: sfgclub@att.net
Web: www.sfgardenclub.com

PLEASE INFORM THE

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY Beverley Hayes
by email of SFGC members' births, illness, or death,
so that the appropriate acknowledgment can be sent.
Email: beverleyhayes@sbcglobal.net