



# GARDEN GAZETTE

*The San Francisco Garden Club*

**Summer  
2024**

"It's a smile, it's a kiss,  
It's a sip of wine ...  
it's summertime!"

Kenny Chesney

Sunf Flare Rose

## Calendar

*(Tentative)*

### September

Thursday, September 19

SFGC Meeting/Luncheon

Presidio Golf & Concordia Club

### October

Thursday, October 17

SFGC Meeting/Luncheon

Presidio Golf & Concordia Club

### November

Thursday, November 21

SFGC Meeting/Luncheon

Presidio Golf & Concordia Club

### December

Thursday, December 12

SFGC Meeting/Luncheon

Presidio Golf & Concordia Club

### January

Thursday, January 16

SFGC Annual Meeting Luncheon

Presidio Golf & Concordia Club

### February

Thursday, February 20

SFGC Meeting/Luncheon

Past Presidents' Luncheon

Presidio Golf & Concordia Club

### March

Thursday, March 20

SFGC Meeting/Luncheon

Presidio Golf & Concordia Club

### April

Thursday, April 17

SFGC Meeting/Luncheon

Presidio Golf & Concordia Club

### May

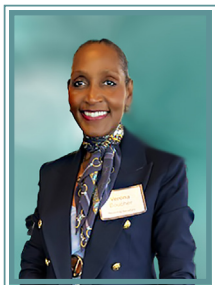
Thursday, May 15

SFGC Annual Meeting /Luncheon

Presidio Golf & Concordia Club

# Presidents' Letters

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Dear members of the San Francisco Garden Club,

Thank you for giving me the privilege to serve as Board president for the 2024-2025 cycle. I am honored and humbled that you voted me into the position.

I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to our Immediate Past President, Bonnie Demergasso, for seen and unseen work that she did to hold the club together during her tenure.

I am deeply thankful to the Nominating Committee for assembling a top-notch team of remarkable talented women who are committed to ensure a successful year. I pledge to work diligently with the Board members, Directors, and the Committee chairs to fulfil our philanthropic mission to support various organizations and charities in the San Francisco Bay Area. Specifically, our fundraising efforts to continue support of the Alice Eastwood Scholarships, the Civic Participation Program, and the Gardens of Golden Gate Park.

This is an exciting time as the San Francisco Garden Club will celebrate its 100th anniversary in 2026. Therefore, this Board also has an imperative task this year to begin the preparation/setting benchmarks to put the Club in an optimal position to execute a successful celebratory event. The positive energy I experienced at the Annual Meeting makes me confident that our Board and Club members, working together, will yield a successful 2024-2025 year.

A little about me: I was born on the beautiful island of Jamaica, West Indies and at the age of 10, I immigrated, with my family, to the United States. I hold two degrees, a Bachelor's in Occupational Therapy and a Master's in Hospitality Management. I am a 31 year veteran of the United States Army and Air Force, retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel in 2015. Since retirement, I have spent my time volunteering for various charitable organizations, traveling, and tending to my garden/yard. I have multiple fruit trees, table grape producing vines, vegetables, and a variety of flowers and roses. I'm an amateur gardener who enjoys the experience of putting for hours.

Thanks again for the warm welcome.

Best wishes for a great summer. See you in September!

Verona Boucher

*Board meetings via Zoom are set for the first Thursday of each month at 11:00 am.  
Luncheons are on the third Thursday of the month.*



Dear Members,

Thank you for supporting the club by attending our luncheons and making donations. By doing so, you have contributed to the wellbeing of our organization and brought us that much closer to our 100th anniversary. I hope we can increase our historic philanthropic work by beautifying more of San Francisco.

Since my term as VP and then President, my goals for the club included, increasing memberships, bringing quality programs, and upgrading the centerpieces. (I really enjoyed making them). In addition, I wanted to understand our finances in more details and have our savings in a safe, high yield account.

I appreciate the entire board and all the help they put into keeping this operation running smoothly: Betty's sound advice in managing the process, creating field trips and last-minute management of the AE awards as well as nominating committee chair. Martha and her beautiful Gazettes, Maureen's attention to detail, and support with the lunches, Beverley's wealth of creative suggestions and support of the Consul Corp, Verona's steadfast guidance, Donna's gracious and continued support and Cheryl's patience with the membership process.

If called upon, please consider serving. It is a worthy cause and excellent experience.

I will cherish my experience and all the new friends I have made.

Bonnie, Immediate Past President

## Remembering Past SFGC President Mary Chicos

by Betty Voris



Even if you didn't see her, you heard her entourage entering the room. Mary Chicos never attended a Garden Club event or luncheon that she didn't bring at least one friend, often enough to fill a table. Mary's enthusiasm was infectious. Her laugh identifiable. A 42-year member of the Garden Club, she served as president in 1990. She was a generous donor to club projects and often honored its president with a donation to a special club fund. But it was her spirit and her energy that drew club members to her at meetings. If you sat with Mary and her guests, you were in for a wonderful few hours.

Her tenure not only had a theme, it drew SF Chronicle publicity. "A sweep at the switch" was the Club's project. Every month members would go to the cable car turnaround at the foot of Powell Street and literally sweep the streets. With brooms, scoops and trash bags supplied by the Dept. of Public Works, members brought their gloves and energy. Each month on a Tuesday, Mary and crew would don gloves, pick up the brooms and follow through on their goal to "Let's make the area sparkle." Mary's stories from those days kept listeners rapt with laughter. For her dedication, Mary was given a Lifetime Achievement Award from the club.

At 19 Mary came to the United States from Greece and immediately enrolled at CCSF. She met Sam at a Greek dance. They were married 63 years and built

Chicos Market on Nob Hill, their family business that she helped Sam make a success. She was a mother to one son and two daughters, grandmother to two and great-grandmother to one. Mary was happy she lived long enough to witness the election of her niece, Eleni Kounalakis, as Lt. Governor of CA.

During the last year, Mary was unable to attend meetings. She died on March 30th at the age of 88 and left a legacy with the Garden Club that will be hard to follow. Rest in Peace, Mary. It is well-deserved.



## Board Voted into Office on May 16, 2024

<b>President:</b>	Verona Boucher (1 year)	<b>Director (Civic Participation):</b>	Donna Coit (1 year remaining)
<b>Vice President:</b>	Beverley Hayes (2 years)	<b>Director (Activities):</b>	Ly Ly (2 years)
<b>Recording Secretary:</b>	Tish Brown (2 years)	<b>Director (Hospitality):</b>	Jane Bradford Evans (2 years)
<b>Corresponding Secretary:</b>	Eva Monroe (1 year)	<b>Director (Membership):</b>	Lani Pringle (1 year)
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Maureen Fox (1 year remaining)	<b>Bonnie Demergasso remains as Immediate Past President</b>	

## Committee Chairs:

<b>Garden Gazette:</b>	Martha Woollomes	<b>Bylaws Revision:</b>	Betty Voris
<b>Historian:</b>	Gail McCollom	<b>Gardens of GGP liaison:</b>	Tish Brown
<b>Nature Rewilding:</b>	Natasha Hopkinson	<b>SF Consular Corps liaison:</b>	Beverley Hayes
<b>Alice Eastwood:</b>	Tammy Braas-Hill (pending)		



# April Luncheon



*Speaker Marsha Holm*



*LaVerne Silverman,  
Bonnie Demergasso*



*Betty Voris, Gail McCollom*



*Susan Koala, Cecy Jones Korematsu*



*Mother, Baby Scarlet*



*Jean Ellingsen*



*Ly Ly*



*Merilyn Presten*



*Judith Field*



*Rose Pan, Sue Pemberton,  
Cindy Ward*



*Lisa Harris*



*Verona Boucher, Gail McCollom*



*Marsha Holm, Tish Brown*



*Betty Smith, Sigrid Dedo*



*Cynthia Woods, Betty Voris*



*Centrepiece*



# May Luncheon



*Bonnie Demergasso*



*Betty Voris, Bonnie Demergasso  
with Alice Eastwood winner Ying Yi*



*Betty Voris, Bonnie Demergasso  
with Alice Eastwood winner Colton Chert*



*Verona Boucher*



*Jane Scurich, Loretta Zarza*



*Cynthia Woods*



*Ly Ly*



*Gail McCollom, Eva Monroe*



*Janis Burke*



*Natasha Hopkinson*



*Betty Smith, Donna Coit*



*Marky Quayle*



*Sandra Swanson, Vinati Mishra  
Carol Engelbrecht, Charlotte Mayfield*



*Colton Chert, Steven Brown*



*Lisa Harris, Nara Bat-Ophir  
Beverley Hayes*



*Ying Yi, Theresia Treadway*



# Lotusland Trip

## A Trip to the Gardens of Montecito and Santa Barbara

*Photos and article by Eva Monroe*



On April 22, a band of San Francisco Garden Club members and guests met at the Montecito Inn to begin a four day field trip touring two exceptional gardens, a beautifully restored historical mansion, plus delicious restaurants and fabulous shops along the way.

Organized by our President, Bonnie Demergasso, every detail was well thought out and did not disappoint! The Montecito Inn was a lovely central point with a warm European feel and a very convenient and good restaurant on site for our breakfasts and dinners, for those who chose to dine in.

First up for tour was the Bellosguardo Mansion. Once part of the Huguette Clark Family Estate, was bequeathed to the Bellosguardo Foundation with the goal of transforming it into a focal point for art and culture in Santa Barbara and beyond. The house is a repository for the priceless art and antiques collected by the “copper king” and Senator William Andrews Clark. The private tour was led by former SF art gallerist and historian now a native Santa Barbara, Thomas Reynolds.



The garden focal point of our visit was Lotusland, the famed collection of exotic gardens owned by Madame Ganna Walska and opened to the public in 1937. A passionate gardening visionary and generous humanitarian, Ganna Walska created dramatic “rooms” of outdoor tropical and subtropical fantasies. In time, she added many examples of gardening styles to please the eye. Led by a very knowledgeable docent, we were delighted at every turn.

The next garden we visited was located high on the hills of the Santa Ynez range above Santa Barbara and Montecito. The Santa Barbara Botanical Garden was founded in 1926 with a commitment to California native plants. The garden

was originally laid out in various plant communities, such as chaparral, desert and prairie with emphasis on plants from the Pacific slope of North America, including the small islands hugging the central and southern California coast. Now as you explore, the layout is more natural, just as if you were hiking through various trails in our national parks and public gardens

We were most fortunate to have a lively docent who was passionate about the garden and at 89 years old was a font of historical and horticultural information, shared with gusto and good sense! She guided us along garden paths bursting with Spring growth on either side, through meadows carpeted with wildflowers and to vistas that looked out to hills covered in varied species of native oaks and forests of evergreen trees. At the end of one West facing trail, we could see the Channel islands from afar and looking around us, see the flora gathered and growing from those islands.



In between the educational attractions, we indulged the call of the many fine restaurants and shops, plus other historical buildings in Santa Barbara, Montecito and in Summerland, a beach enclave located just below Montecito.

We left this wonderful field trip with the enthusiastic idea to come back individually to savor again what we had enjoyed together as a group. Thank you Bonnie for a wonderful experience!



# Lotusland Trip

## SFGC Lotusland Trip Attendees

*Photos by Jane Evans & Beverley Hayes*

Betty Packard Voris  
Beverley Hayes  
Bonnie Demergasso  
Eva Monroe  
Gail McCollom  
Jane Bradford Evans

Kathleen McNulty  
Mary Von Zomeren  
Maureen Fox  
Sigrid Dedo  
Verona Boucher  
(+ five guests)



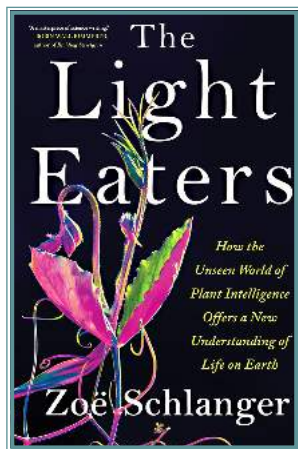


# Horticulture Page

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## Interesting Reading *The Light Eaters*

by Zoë Schlanger



Award-winning Atlantic staff writer Zoë Schlanger delivers a groundbreaking work of popular science that probes the hidden world of the plant kingdom and reveals the astonishing capabilities of the green life all around us.

Let there be light indeed. Without it there would be no plants, no animals, no us. Although the unique capacity of plants for photosynthesis has long fascinated biologists, it was assumed that plants were, stupid. Not any more. In “The Light Eaters,” Zoë Schlanger, a science journalist, sheds light on how these previously underestimated creatures have been enjoying their newfound place in the scientific sun. To read “The Light Eaters” is to be astounded by the complex behaviors of the ostensibly lower life forms.

*The Light Eaters* is a deep immersion into the drama of green life and the complexity of this wild and awe-inspiring world that challenges our very understanding of agency, consciousness, and intelligence.

In looking closely, we see that plants, rather than imitate human intelligence, have perhaps formed a parallel system. What is intelligent life if not a vine that grows leaves to blend into the shrub on which it climbs, a flower that shapes its bloom to fit exactly the beak of its pollinator, a pea seedling that can hear water flowing and make its way toward it? Zoë Schlanger takes us across the globe, digging into her own memories and into the soil with the scientists who have spent their waking days studying these amazing entities up close.

What can we learn about life on Earth from the living things that thrive, adapt, consume, and accommodate simultaneously? More important, what do we owe these life forms once we come to understand their rich and varied abilities? Examining the latest epiphanies in botanical research, Schlanger spotlights the intellectual struggles among the researchers conceiving a wholly new view of their subject, offering a glimpse of a field in turmoil as plant scientists debate the tenets of ongoing discoveries and how they influence our understanding of what a plant is.

We need plants to survive. But what do they need us for—if at all? An eye-opening and informative look at the ecosystem we live in, this book challenges us to rethink the role of plants—and our own place—in the natural world. Find it on [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) or your bookstore.

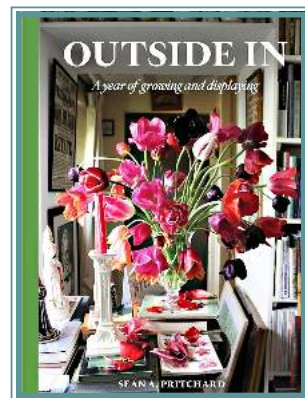
## Outside In: *A year of growing and displaying*

by Sean A. Pritchard

Sean Pritchard and his first book, *Outside In: A year of growing and displaying*, is stunning! Richard is a Garden and Landscape Designer and an RHS medalist. His bohemian approach to decorating his house is reminiscent of the Bloomsbury group’s homes and gardens, like Great Dixter.

Discover how to plan your garden so you can display flowers and foliage in your home every month of the year, in this beautifully illustrated guide from popular Instagram and RHS Hampton Court Garden Festival gardener Sean A Pritchard.

The book explores the blurring of the boundaries between the garden and the home at Sean’s cottage in Somerset. He shows you how to plan a garden so there’s something to bring indoors every month of the year and how, at all times, something thrilling is happening in the garden. The book is divided by season, with additional chapters on vessels, scent, color, texture, and how to plan for the gardening year. Find it on [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) or your favorite bookstore.

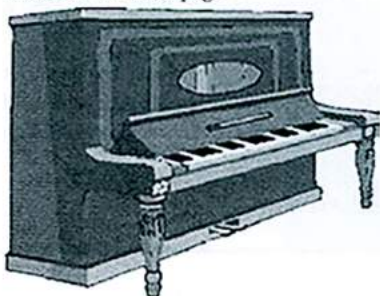




# garden gazette

**LUNCHEON ON NOVEMBER 14th  
FEATURING ENTERTAINER**

Reservations can be made through the SFGC office. Both cost and times remain the same: Social hour, 11:30 am; Luncheon, noon; and program to follow. Both a map and directions to The Century Club can be found on the back page.



Stanlee splits his time between San Francisco and Los Angeles, where he designs some of the most high-profile events in Hollywood. For example, he designed Sir Elton John's In-Style post-Oscar party in 2003 and the In-Style post-Oscar event in 2004. He designed

Parking is available at the City Park Garage on Bush Street across from The Family Club or The Sutter/Stockton Garage. It is suggested you park on the 4th floor, take the Bush Street exit for a short block and a half walk to The Family Club.



**Are you still president of the Arts Commission?**  
I am. I serve as the president of the Board, and I also

short block and a half  
club.



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## Garden Gazette

Summer 2024

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Eva Monroe, Betty Voris, Martha Woollomes

### PROOF READERS

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Jane Scurich, Betty Voris

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Vice President Beverley Hayes  
Corresponding Secretary: Eva Monroe  
Recording Secretary: Tish Brown  
Treasurer: Maureen Murray Fox

## DONATION OPPORTUNITIES



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### Ways to Pay

- Check sent to the SFGC Office
- On the SFGC website: [sfgardenclub.com](http://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

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### PLEASE INFORM THE

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