



# GARDEN GAZETTE

*The San Francisco Garden Club*

**Late Fall  
2024**

## *SFGC Meeting/Luncheon*

**October 17**

*Presidio Golf  
& Concordia Club*

## **Calendar**

(Tentative)

### **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 19**

SFGC Holiday Meeting/Luncheon

Presidio Golf & Concordia Club

### **January**

**Thursday, January 16**

SFGC 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

*Reception flowers by Elizabeth Bailey,  
daughter of Lisa Harris.....  
dahlias, marigolds, fresh mint  
and blackberries*

# President's Letter



Hello to my Fellow San Francisco Garden Club Members, Welcome to Fall/Autumn!

I am delighted to announce that we have successfully kicked off our monthly luncheon series for 2024-2025. Our New Members Luncheon took place on Thursday, September 19th, 2024, at the prestigious San Francisco Yacht Club in Belvedere, CA.

Many members contributed to the success of this event, and I would like to recognize a few. Please join me in extending our heartfelt thanks to Lisa Harris for flawlessly coordinating and executing such a beautiful event. With some assist from Martha, she even created a continuous running slideshow of members (past and present) and various other events, which was a lovely background throughout the luncheon. Special thanks also go to Lisa and her daughter, Elizabeth, a professional floral designer, for generously providing the gorgeous centerpieces. These arrangements featured vibrant Dahlias, Marigolds, Blackberries, and Pistachio tree branches, which set the perfect backdrop for our delicious buffet. The buffet included a mouth-watering Curry Chicken Salad with seasonal fresh fruit (papaya, melon, pineapple), chutney, mixed greens, coconut shavings, and a Poached Pear Salad with baby arugula, spinach, pecans, and champagne vinaigrette, accompanied by fresh bread. The meal was beautifully complemented by a lovely French Rosé.

Additionally, a big thank you to Bonnie Demergasso, our Immediate Past President, as well as Jane Bradford Evans (Director of Hospitality) and Lani Pringle (Director of Membership), two of our newer members. They were instrumental behind the scenes and on the day of the event, graciously welcoming members and guests alike.

I am thrilled to share that we surpassed our expected attendance, with 60 members and guests up from our initial count of 50. This was in part due to the wonderful efforts of several members reaching out to invite friends and fellow members to attend. I want to extend a huge thank you to Maureen Fox (Treasurer). She is such a multifaceted asset to our Club. She took on the task to meticulously track the RSVPs and payments. I believe she even made some calls herself, which was vital to us meeting our goal of 50 attendees. She even stayed on top of this while starting her vacation. Maureen, your physical presence at the meeting was missed. Thank you all for your participation and for making the event such a success! Please forgive me if I've missed acknowledging anyone.

Like many of you, I have enjoyed a year filled with both domestic and international travels. My most recent trip was an eight-day visit to the spectacular, lush, tropical Caribbean islands of St. Kitts and Nevis.

As a Jamaican, I relished the familiar warmth of island life—it truly felt like home. The primary purpose of my trip was to celebrate my dear friend, Ms. Cecilia's 80th birthday, which was a joyous occasion. Our group of about twenty enjoyed private tours of the islands, taking in the stunning landscapes, the occasional short rain showers, and the laidback island vibe. One of the most breathtaking moments was standing at a point on St. Kitts where I could see both the Atlantic Ocean to the north and the Caribbean Sea to the south. If you're looking for a vacation destination, I highly recommend the West Indies!

As mentioned in my previous letter, our luncheon series is packed with uniquely talented presenters this year. I encourage you to attend these lovely gatherings—you won't want to miss out on a dynamic year filled with learning, socializing, and building friendships. You will not want to miss a holiday excursion to FILOLI in Woodside that SFGC Activities Director Ly Ly is planning. Details to come.

Warm regards,  
Verona Boucher, Lt. Col, Retired, USAF  
President, San Francisco Garden Club



# October/November Programs

## Speaker for the October Meeting/Luncheon



Natasha Hopkinson

*Creative Landscape Designer, Engaging Speaker & SFGC Member*

### Program: Rewilding

*Inspiring a passion for gardeners to garden and to realize the happiness and health benefits that come from gardening and a connection with nature. Together we just might save our neighborhood, our city, our world and our home, the Planet Earth*

Rewilding: a form of ecological restoration aimed at increasing biodiversity and restoring natural processes. The use of native plants is necessary to recreate the original ecosystem that will thrive on the site. This concept has changed landscape design and our concept of what is beautiful.

*The three gardens below are examples of rewilded or wilded gardens*



*Wildflower Meadow, England The Bannermans*



*Wildflower Garden, CT by Rebecca McMackin*



*Long Island Garden by Edwina von Gal  
Photo credit Allan Pollok-Morris*

## Presenter for the November 21 Meeting/Luncheon

Nara Bat-Ochir

*While operating her own coffee franchise and non-banking financial institution in Mongolia for the last 20 years, Nara actively pursued planting in Mongolia as well as wedding and party planning. She is currently posted in San Francisco with her husband, the Consul General of Mongolia.*

### Program: Gardening in Harsh Weather/Mongolia

#### Presentation will include:

*Mongolia • About Nara's life • Planting experience in Mongolia  
Pre-made Wedding arrangement and decoration • Flower arrangement demonstration.*

#### *A bit about the flowers of Mongolia*



*Yak Horned Poppy*

Mongolia's flowers are legendary - and literally carpet the landscape at the height of summer. Given the country's high altitude, many are alpine varieties: the edelweiss is prolific and used as a folk medicine; others are lilies, clematis, saxifrage, gentians, even orchids. Caryopteris are small flowering shrubs with white or blue flowers and aromatic leaves. Meadows are covered in a variety of flowers such as anemones, primulas, and delphiniums (one particular long-stemmed delphinium, is called "do not forget me," while other flowers include geraniums, rhododendrons and wild roses. One particular species is the snow lotus, or vansemberuu, which is found only at high altitudes and is coveted for its medicinal properties.

# New Member Reception



*New Members: Betty Smith, Amy Garant, Ada Smith, Mary Jane Schneider, Marilyn Gilmer*



*SFGC President Verona Boucher introducing the new members*



*Elizabeth Bailey with her Mother Lisa Harris*



*Ada Smith, Mary Jane Schneider*



*Bonnie Demergasso, Lani Pringle*



*Misty Tyree, Sandra Swanson*



*Betty Voris, Lani Pringle, Verona Boucher*



*Carol Engelbrecht, Vinati Mishra*



*Cheryl Minvielle, Tish Brown*



*Sue Pemberton, Rose Pan, Sally Ketchum*



*San Francisco Yacht Club Dining Room*



*Gail McCollom with centerpiece*



*Lisa Klairmont, Betty Voris*



*Jane Bradford Evans, Sylvia Cross, Verona Boucher*

# New Member Reception/Donors



SFGC President Verona Boucher



Susan Johnson, Marilyn Gilmer, Peggy Rae



Sylvia Cross, Linda Lajoie, Beth Shedden



Verona Boucher, Carol Engelbrecht, Vinati Mishra



Patty McCrary, Lani Pringle



Buffet Table



## Angel Donors

As of April 30, 2024

Verona	Boucher	Anne	Katz	Amy	Quirk
Tammy	Brass-Hill	Sally	Ketchum	Nancy	Russell
Janis	Burke	Marilu	Klar	LaVerne	Silverman
Mary	Chicos	Cecilia	Korematsu	Katharin	Snyder
Courtney	Clarkson	Elaine	Larkin	Jane	Storseter
Donna	Coit	Joanne	Lindeke	Kate	Sullivan
Moira	Conzelman	Monica	Martin	Sandra	Swanson
Bonnie	Demergasso	Gail	McCollom	Carmi	Ticehurst
Mary	Henry de Tessan	Kathleen	McNulty	Barbara	Traisman
Judith	Field	Susan	Milliron	Misty	Tyree
Maureen	Fox	Cheryl	Minvielle	Betty	Voris
Lavonne	Harlan	Eva	Monroe	Cecilia	Vrihease- in memory of
Lisa	Harris	Elaine	Oldham		Mary Chicos
Toni	Heineman	Sue	Pemberton	Cynthia	Woods
Corinne	Hitchcock	Merilyn	Presten	Martha	Woollomes
Barbara	Johnson	Marky	Quayle		

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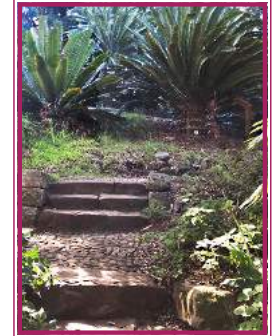
## A Brief Garden Safari

*Jane Bradford Evans*



*Victoria Falls*

**M**y husband and I have a working formula for most trips. I agree to a week's fly fishing, and he responds with visits to gardens, outdoor spaces, villages, art galleries and museums etc. In this spirit we decided to visit South Africa last spring and finish our journey fishing in the Seychelles. We started with a visit to Kirstenbosch National Botanical Gardens, a World Heritage Site and part of Table Mountain National Park in Cape Town, South Africa. Founded in 1913, Kirstenbosch is the world's first botanical garden and now has a proud record of preserving the native South African flora. The park has a rich and diverse indigenous plant life originating from a variety of terrains: desert, treetop, mountainous, forest and caostal. The land for the park was bequeathed by Cecil Rhodes, who foresaw Africa's potential and amassed a fortune as a mining engineer.



*Cycad Amphitheater*

He gradually emerged as a leading statesman in Southern Africa. More controversial today than in the late nineteenth century, he is renowned for his many public efforts including Kirstenbosch and Rhodes scholarships at Oxford that benefit Americans and students from 60 other countries. Today, there is a Centenary Tree Canopy Walkway in the arboretum built in 2013-14 to celebrate the 100-year partnership between Kirstenbosch and the Botanical Society of South Africa. We enjoyed walking trails that wind through a natural forest, cycads, a healing garden, and shrub land known as fynbos, renowned for its biodiversity and rare plant species. Fynbos (Dutch for "fine bush") extends over the Cape Floristic Region or Cape Floral Kingdom. This evergreen, Mediterranean type shrub land contains over 9,000 flowering plant species. Among these is the King Protea, South Africa's national flower. Fynbos is one of 6 floral kingdoms around the world and is the only one located entirely in a single country.



*Seychelles - Torch Ginger*

The African Cycad Garden creates a natural amphitheater and is a dominant feature of the park. Cycads were the first plants to be established at Kirstenbosch, but today they are a severely endangered species. Cycads are in decline all over the world and are constantly under threat from unscrupulous collectors. For those who participated in the trip to Lotusland in Santa Barbara, you will recall the cycad garden. Among the many threatened species, Lotusland cares for five believed to be extinct in the wild. Lotusland's collection is one of the most complete in any American garden, including almost half of the known species variants. Kirstenbosch also has a much-prized collection. The parallel between Lotusland and Kirstenbosch was unexpected and exciting.



*5 day old Rino & mother*

A day's drive from Cape Town into the winelands took us to the town of Franschhoek and then on to Babylonstoren, a working farm, comprised of a series of garden rooms, each creating a different vignette to illustrate a vast range of horticulture. They too have a cycad garden, as well as succulent, herb, vegetable, edible flower, medicinal and fruit gardens, olive and citrus orchards, habitat for bees and much more.

Not to be missed were the vigilant ostrich roaming wild in the surrounding fynbos, African penguins at the Cape of Good Hope on the coastline, Robben Island Museum and the site of the separately located Victor Verster Prison.

We completed the South African visit with a safari in the Timbavati Nature Reserve, wild without cultivation. Other highlights included the Big 5 animals (lion, leopard, elephant, rhino and Cape buffalo) all seen in one day. We also were lucky enough to see a five-day old rhino with its mother and a regal leopard stretching out in the grass.

Traveling north to Victoria Falls National Park rainforest in neighboring Zimbabwe, we finally landed on Alphonse Island, in the Seychelles archipelago. The islands are well known for saltwater fishing and are one of the most renowned bone fishing destinations on earth. Situated in the Indian Ocean, the Seychelles is a



*Wild Ostrich*

Continued on the next page

# Safari/Book Review

former British colony and is now recognized as the smallest country in Africa. The country has a national flower, the tropic bird orchid, popular for bridal bouquets. On Alphonse, we enjoyed daily trips to the flats and coral reefs among the atolls, doing our best to catch bone fish, grouper, snapper, trigger fish, and milk fish. Permit and trevally fish remained elusive. On our route home each day we passed families of giant tortoise, moving freely about the island and protecting their nest habitats.

Our last stop was the island of Mahe, the largest island within the Seychelles and home of the capital, Victoria. Of note in the Botanical Garden was the Coco-De-Mer giant palm tree, a rare species of palm, native only to the Seychelles. It is now protected under Seychelle law. It has the largest fruit, heaviest seeds and largest flowers of any female palm. It also has the largest seed of any plant in the world. This garden has been used as a tree planting site for visiting dignitaries. The Duke of Edinburgh planted a Coco de Mer seedling in 1956 which is now a grand tree. The island of Praslin is home to the best Coco de Mer Forest and the tree is endemic only to Praslin and Curieuse islands.



*African Penguins*

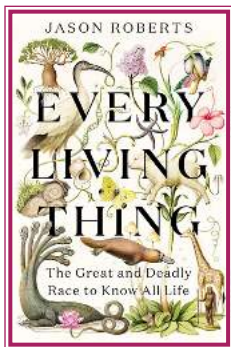


*Seychelles Giant Tortoise*

## Botanical Classification

### *Every Living Thing by Jason Roberts*

Review by Dr. Judith Taylor



I am still reading the book which I shall describe here but although I have not finished it the content is so amazing I feel impelled to share it with people. Jason Roberts, a Bay area journalist and writer, decided to compare and contrast Carl Linnaeus with Georges Leclerc, Comte de Buffon, in “Every Living Thing: the great and deadly race to know all life” very much to the detriment of the former.

We have been trained, I would almost say “brainwashed”, to regard Linnaeus with immense awe as the father of useful and intelligible classification. We then move up to Darwin and consider anyone in between as rather pathetic and misguided idiots. Buffon was one of the intermediate figures who turns out to be much more significant and substantial in hind sight.

There is no doubt that when Linnaeus published “Systema Naturae” in 1735 he made an enormous advance in science. His simple binomial system replaced a morass of muddled naming and allowed scholars to communicate much more effectively. No one can take that away from him. It was how he went about holding on to his fame and pushing himself forward with outmoded and meaningless material that has led to questioning of his legacy.

Buffon had a much more flexible and open mind. He did not believe that Linnaeus’ artificial system based on the number of stamens and ovaries in a flower reflected what was actually happening in nature and thought that only a very careful examination of each animal or plant would reveal a better way of arranging the natural order. While still alive he published 35 volumes of “Histoire Naturelle” and two more appeared after his death.

Linnaeus based his system on a completely fixed and closed arrangement. God had set things up a few thousand years before and everything would remain in its little box for ever. He was unable to conceive of the possibility of evolutionary change. Buffon was able to think that might occur though he hazarded no actual guess as to how it might take place.

One of his students, Lamarck, believed that adaptive changes in an organism’s lifetime could be passed on to its descendants. If an Arctic animal’s fur turned white in winter to blend in with the snow Lamarck believed all its offspring would be born white.

Subsequent work showed that was highly unlikely so Lamarck and his colleagues were ignored. Darwin found a way out of the impasse and almost all modern biology stems from that insight.

*There is a lot more to come but I hope this tiny snippet is exciting.*

# New SFGC Members

## Meet the New SFGC Members

*Getting to know SFGC New Members through their own words*



*Lisa Klairmont,*

Lisa divides her time between Tiburon and Sonoma. Her mother was an avid gardener and instilled the love of beautiful landscapes into her consciousness. Lisa is retired at this point, however during her professional life she was active in city planning and her final position was as the Executive Manager of the Water Transit Authority. She belongs to many associations and Clubs, is in three book groups, two documentary groups, and two art groups.



*Amy Garant*

One of my fondest early memories of flowers is picking lilies of the valley and violets for my May Day baskets. My Mother grew roses and I helped plant petunias, begonias, geraniums, and other annuals in flower beds and pots every Spring. As an adult, I love having flowers and plants in my home. One of my favorite activities during the pandemic was to take photos of flowers on my daily walks, identify them, and share the photos with friends. As a Garden Club member, I look forward to learning more about native flowers and plants and flower arranging



*Marilyn Gilmer*

Marilyn Gilmer was born in San Francisco, CA. She currently resides in Marin County, CA with her husband of 39 years, John Gilmer (also a San Francisco Bay Area native). They have two children, Katherine (34) and Christian (32), both who graduated from college and are professionally employed. Marilyn holds a BS degree in Accounting, an MBA and had a successful career at Touche Ross, LLP and Bank of America in San Francisco. Marilyn has a true passion and love for the outdoors, genealogy and historical preservation. She is a member of several other societies including, the Jamestowne Society, Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), The National Society of Colonial Dames of America, Daughters of the Cincinnati, Filoli, and St. John's Episcopal Church (Ross, CA). When not focused on family activities, Marilyn enjoys volunteering in organizations that benefit veterans in her local community. She loves travel and outdoor activities, including gardening and hiking.



*Mary Jane Schneider*

I retired in 2021 after practicing family law for 35 years. Prior to attending law school, I obtained a masters degree in Marriage Family and Child Counselling and worked in mental health for five years. My undergraduate degree is in Biology. I attended Mills College where my academic advisor was a botanist. Under his guidance I took every botany class Mills College had to offer. I loved the botany classes I took. I grew up outside of St. Louis, Missouri. Both of my grandmothers were active garden club members (in competing garden clubs), supporters of the Missouri Botanical Gardens and both of my grandfathers were excellent home gardeners and orchard men. I have two projects going in the garden right now. I am reclaiming a small lawn area to cultivate saffron crocuses. I am also experimenting with growing Madeira Cranesbill Geraniums from seed. When we were in Montecito on the Santa Barbara garden tour, I saw Madeira Cranesbill Geraniums for the first time. I was smitten with those plants. I was able to track down some seed in the UK and will work on their difficult germination over the winter. It feels that joining the San Francisco Garden Club is literally returning to my roots (pun intended). It feels great. Thank you so much for giving me the opportunity to participate in the San Francisco Garden Club.



# New Members Continued



*Ada Smith*

I am a native New Yorker to CA via North Carolina and Connecticut, arriving in Carmel, CA in 1971. Received BA and MA from University of Santa Clara, and secured a LMFT license in 1980. My career includes several years in private practice in SF and Marin before joining City of San Francisco, offering therapeutic and programmatic services. My professional services also include Executive Director of SF La Casa de las Madres (domestic violence agency) and Executive Director of Operation Give A Damn (OGAD Marin City, CA). Settled in San Anselmo (45 years), with husband of 32 years, with 3 children and 3 grandchildren. Gardening activities include tending to over 50 self-planted plants on about an acre of land.



*Betty Smith*

I grew up in Atherton and Woodside. Between high school and college I traveled for six months with my family to Europe, Middle East, and Asia. I have always ridden horses and loved seeing wildflowers and mushrooms different times of the year on the trails. I had a key to ride on the Watershed behind Filoli which was the old stagecoach road between Santa Cruz and San Francisco. I am a landlady in San Francisco. I have a vacation house in Ukiah where I have a large garden. All my senses are touched when I am in my garden. I belong to the Metropolitan Club and Filoli where I have also taken classes. I love being in the San Francisco Garden Club.



*Corinne Hitchcock*

Corinne Hitchcock hails from Paris, France, where she was born and educated. Early on, she developed a keen interest in languages and cultures of the world, being raised in a diplomatic environment. She began her marketing communications career at UNESCO, Paris. She then moved to the United States, soon entering the field of investment trading in options and futures, still in marketing. She then transferred to the High Tech industry, joining a start-up company in Palo Alto whose founders were French. Since then, California has become her home. She enjoys being a docent at the Fine Arts Museums, as well as other organizations who understand the importance of gardening the right way for the betterment of the world.



*Thursday, November 28*

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# Garden Gazette

Late Fall 2024

## EDITOR & LAYOUT

Martha Woollomes

## CONTRIBUTERS & PHOTOS

Verona Boucher, Jane Bradford,  
Lisa Harris, Beverley Hayes,  
Natasha Hopkinson, Dr. Judith Taylor,  
Betty Voris, Martha Woollomes,  
New Members: Amy Garant, Marilyn Gilmer  
Corinne Hitchcock, Lisa Klimont, Mary Jane Schneider  
Ada Smith, Betty Smith

## PROOF READERS

Verona Boucher, Eva Monroe,  
Jane Scurich, Betty Voris

## OFFICERS

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

## UPCOMING EVENTS AND DONATION OPPORTUNITIES

### *Lunch/Meetings/Programs:*

*Social 11:30 • Lunch 12:15 Presentation 1:00*

### Thursday, October 17

*Seated Luncheon Speaker Series Menu:*

Entree: Baked Italian Lasagna  
or Spinach Apple Salad  
Dessert: Apple Cobbler Chantilly  
Coffee or Tea • Cost \$75.00 per person  
RSVP by October 7th - \$10 late fee

### Thursday, November 21

*Seated Luncheon Speaker Series menu*

Asian Chicken or  
Salad/Pasta Primavera (V)  
Dessert: Lemon Bar Royal  
Coffee or Tea • Cost \$75.00 per person  
RSVP by November 11th - \$10 late fee

### Thursday, December 19

SFGC Holiday Luncheon  
Presidio Golf & Concordia Club

## Election Day

Tuesday, November 5



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

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

### Ways to Pay

- Check sent to the SFGC Office
- On the SFGC website: sfgardenclub.org
- 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

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Web: www.sfgardenclub.org

### PLEASE INFORM THE

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY Eva Monroe  
by email of SFGC members' births, illness, or death,  
so that the appropriate acknowledgment can be sent.  
Email: evamonroe@me.com