



GARDEN GAZETTE

The San Francisco Garden Club

Late Winter
2025

SFGC
Meeting/Luncheon
January 16
*Presidio Golf &
Concordia Club*

Calendar

Tentative

January

Thursday, January 16
SFGC Meeting /Luncheon
Presidio Golf & Concordia Club

February

Thursday, February 20
SFGC Meeting/Luncheon
Presidents Luncheon
Presidio Golf & Concordia Club

March

Thursday, March 20
SFGC Fundraiser
"One World: Two Voices"
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

Mark your Calendars

Presidents Luncheon

February 20

featuring

Steven Brown ATFD

*Chair Environmental Horticulture
& Florestry, City College San Francisco*

Flowers generated by AI

President's Letter



Happy New Year SFGC Members! I hope you all had a wonderful holiday season surrounded by family and friends.

I am thrilled to share that we closed out 2024 with three incredibly well-attended events: Steven Brown's dynamic Holiday Wreath-Making Workshop, the breathtaking Filoli Gardens Holiday Guided Tour, and our festive December Holiday Luncheon. Thank you for supporting our Club's growth by attending events, bringing friends and guests, and contributing through donations.

A special thank you goes to Lisa Harris for her exceptional networking skills, which helped us finish the year on a high note! Thanks to Lisa's efforts, our holiday luncheon sold out with a record-breaking 70 RSVPs. Members and guests alike raved about the delicious roasted turkey lunch, as well as the delightful vegetarian option.

Lisa also introduced us to the incredibly talented floral designer, Neil Hunt, whose 90-minute presentation captivated everyone. Using innovative and effortless techniques, Neil crafted awe-inspiring, non-traditional floral arrangements. For the first time, we saw a presenter incorporate tools like an electric saw, power drill, and metal-bending equipment to create stunning large-scale mediums for his designs.

Thank you, Lisa and Neil, for making this year's holiday luncheon unforgettable!

I would be remiss if I did not also thank Maureen Fox, Jane Bradford, Lani Pringle, and Beverley Hayes for their invaluable support in executing this month's luncheon so beautifully.

As we look ahead, 2025 promises fantastic monthly presentations. Mark your calendars for these exciting events:

January 16th: Eleanor Ketter, former Senior Governance and Risk Manager of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (2020–2022), will present "Cultivating Resilience: Protecting the Great Barrier Reef's Underwater Garden."

February 20th: The magnificent Steven Brown will honor our Past Presidents with a floral demonstration, creating arrangements that highlight each president's unique personality.

March 20th: A distinctive Ikebana fundraising event "One World Two Voices" featuring Presidents of Ikebana International's San Francisco Bay Area chapter, Mrs. Mitsuko Maruyama and Mr. Ron Brown. Mitsuko, a Rikka master, will showcase traditional ikebana from the Ohara School, which emphasizes harmony with nature and the changing seasons. Ron, a dynamic designer from the Sogetsu School, will present modern, individualistic creations using both natural and manmade materials in unexpected ways.

These first three meetings of the year are set to be innovative and inspiring!

Please remember that the Presidio Golf Course, Concordia Club requires final guest counts and menu choices 10 days prior to each event. This policy ensures the timely ordering and preparation of food by the chef. Thank you in advance for your prompt RSVPs.

Wishing you all a healthy, happy, and prosperous New Year!

Warm regards,

Verona

Introducing New SFGC Member Lydia Stack

In her own words

Lydia Stack is a Teacher's teacher. She worked for 25 years in the San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD) as an elementary and secondary English as a Second Language (ESL) teacher. After leaving the classroom, she was a SFUSD Administrator in charge of ESL professional development, secondary ESL programs and Special Education Psychological Assessments for the School District. In addition, she taught Second Language Acquisition classes at Stanford University and San Francisco State University and coauthored numerous textbooks for English Learners. In 2005 she retired from SFUSD to travel the world working with teachers who teach refugee youth. She knows that the San Francisco Garden Club will offer wonderful opportunities to learn more about floral design and beautiful gardens to visit around the world.



SFGC NEWS

January Program

Thursday, January 16

Presidio Golf & Concordia Club

Program will feature

Eleanor Ketter

*Former Senior Governance and
Risk Manager "Great Barrier Reef"
Marine Authority*

"The Great Barrier Reef"

*Cultivating Resilience: Protecting
the Great Barrier Reef's Underwater Garden*

\$75 per person • RSVP by January 6

Zelle/PayPal or Check at sfgardenclub.org



Presidents Luncheon

Honoring SFGC Past Presidents

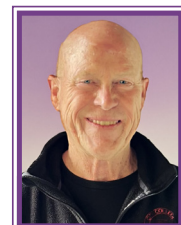
Thursday, February 20

Program will feature

Steven Brown, AIFD

*Chair Environmental Horticulture
& Florestry at CCSF*

*Watch while Steven performs his magic
by creating gorgeous floral arrangements honoring the
SFGC's Past Presidents. During his presentation,
Steven will inspire us with tips and tricks of floral design.*



Save the Date

ONE WORLD: TWO VOICES

March 20, 2025



The exotic world of Ikebana has charmed viewers since its birth in the 6th Century. On March 20th the San Francisco Garden Club will experience the scope of its beauty during ONE WORLD: TWO VOICES.

Two renowned experts, Mitsuko Maruyama and Ron Brown, will highlight the evolution of Ohara through Sogetsu constructions with Misao Osumi, wife of Japan's Consul General as moderator. Each will provide fascinating background details during this once-in-a-lifetime program.

ONE WORLD: TWO VOICES kicks off SFGC's year-long celebration leading up to its 100th anniversary in April 2026. Watch your email for its invitation. Attendance is limited.

FLOWER MART BADGES

Flower Market Badge Purchase and Renewal Deadline is January 20, 2025

SF Garden Club members who currently have Flower Market badges must renew by January 20th.

Renewal price is \$50. Payment may be made by either Zelle or PayPal at sfgclub@att.net or by mail to the SFGC office at 640 Sutter #M, San Francisco 94102. Checks should be made out to San Francisco Garden Club. **In addition, contact Betty Voris at bpvoris@comcast.net or 415.596.1044 with your notification of renewal. NO reservation or payment will be honored after January 20, 2025**

Those who currently do not have a badge and wish to obtain one, should contact Betty Voris to secure a reservation. Cost is \$50 for badge plus the cost of a parking access card.

NO reservation or payment will be honored after January 20, 2025

The new San Francisco Flower Market opens on January 2nd. Located on Potrero Hill at 901 16th Street, the market will be closed on Sundays and close at noon Monday through Saturday. The two-story complex will host fresh flowers for sale on its first floor and plants on the second.

Badges will be available at the February and March luncheons. For an extra \$5, they can be mailed in late February. However, badges which are mailed and not received will not be the responsibility of the Garden Club

Holiday Luncheon



*Trina Littlefield, Neil Hunt
Mimi Blakestein*



Presenter Neil Hunt



Neil Hunt



Verona Boucher, Lani Pringle



Beverley Hayes, Ruth Wolfe



Bonnie Demergasso, Joanne Lindeke



Betty Voris



Jane Bradford Evans



Maureen Fox



Janet Cushing, Sally Ketchum



Steven Brown, Gail McCollom



Eva Monroe, Lydia Stack



Lani Pringle, Lisa Harris



Janis Burke, Claire Blake-Resor



Amy Garant, Sigrid Dedo



Sue Pemberton

Holiday Luncheon



Neil Hunt instructing



Bonnie Demergasso



*Martha Woollomes, Lani Pringle,
Verona Boucher*



Arrangement by Neil Hunt



Courtney Clarkson, Verona Boucher



Arrangement by Neil Hunt



Mary Jane Schneider



Tish Brown, Anne Katz



Bonnie Demergasso, Lydia Stack



Watching demonstration



Ruth Wolfe, Verona Boucher



Arrangement by Neil Hunt



Arrangement by Neil Hunt



Patti Mangan



Gail McCollom



*Sally Ketchum, Marilyn Presten,
Guest*

SFGC Activities

Holidays at Filoli

SFGC members and friends traveled to Filoli on December 10 to view "Holidays at Filoli." A grand time was had by all. Trip Chair was Ly Ly

Photos by Jane Bradford Evans



Wreath Making Workshop on December 7

Taught by Steven Brown AIFD

Chair Environmental Horticulture & Florestry at CCSF



Article by Judith Taylor

A Colleague of Alice Eastwood's

by Dr. Judith M. Taylor



Alice Eastwood

The club has played an important role in keeping Alice Eastwood's memory alive. She was truly a remarkable woman and deserves whatever efforts we make. We always think of her being stoically alone on those plant collecting trips high up in the California mountains. Those trips were very hard work. She had to take any food she needed with her and she also had to carry large quantities of paper and the other tools for preserving the plants she found. Alice Eastwood died in 1953 at the age of 94.

The fact that she worked alone was true in the early days. Later in life she became very friendly with another woman botanist who was equally remarkable in different ways. Raise your hand if you have heard of Susan Delano McKelvey. Ah, I see no one responds.

Susan Delano McKelvey, 1883 to 1964, was a granddaughter of Warren Delano, a major player in the opium trade. One of Warren's daughters, Sara, was Franklin Delano Roosevelt's mother. Susan and Franklin were distant cousins. Sara Delano Roosevelt was a very self righteous woman and clearly never thought about the source of her family's wealth.

Her upbringing was a far cry from the sad childhood of Alice Eastwood whose mother died when she was still very young. Her father did his best to keep her safe and get educated but she had to rely on herself for most of her life.

Mrs. McKelvey was very well educated and in spite of her wealth and its seductions spent her time with serious pursuits. She wrote a definitive monograph on the lilac family but her magnum opus was "Botanical Exploration in the Trans-Mississippi West" 1790 to 1850. Another plant family beside lilac later took hold of her imagination and she made at least five significant collecting trips to the American South West to find new specimens of yucca.

She was based in Massachusetts, initially at the Arnold Arboretum (now part of Harvard University) and later in Cambridge at the botanical museum. Alice Eastwood got to know her when she passed through San Francisco on one of her trips. The women immediately became friends and began working together in 1928. Mrs. McKelvey had a chauffeur driven car. Alice Eastwood travelled with her in far greater comfort than she had ever known. Both women were looking for additional specimens of yucca, cactus and agave for their collections.

As Susan McKelvey grew older she stopped exploring and devoted herself to historical research. No detail was too small for her to consider. Dr. Charles Sprague Sargent, director of the Arnold Arboretum, encouraged her in that just as he had supported her earlier work. Sargent was a significant figure in his day and quite unusual in his attitude to women in science. Beatrix Farrand, a pioneering woman landscape architect, asked him to take her on as an apprentice when she could not learn about landscaping and horticulture anywhere else.

"Botanical Exploration of the Trans-Mississippi West 1790 to 1850" opens with Thaddeus Haenke in California in 1791. In 1792 the Scottish explorer Archibald Menzies found his way there too. California was then still a barren frontier region, punctuated by Franciscan missions and a few Spanish soldiers enslaving and subduing the native people.

The book is over 1100 pages long and not for the faint of heart but it contains anything you could possibly want to know about the botanical history of the Western states. There are a few other books in its league. One is Emil Bretschneider's recounting of the botanical history of China.



Susan Delano McKelvey.



SFGC History – GG 2007



Internationally Known Professor

Teaches Ikebana to Garden Club Students

Shuji Ikeda, Sokakyo Professor at Ikenobo School, presented a class on Ikebana, the elegant art of Japanese flower arranging on Wednesday, February 7th, from 10 am until noon. A renowned professor of Ikebana, Mr. Ikeda is indicative of the kind of professional whom Class Chairman Lisa Harris has arranged to present their talents and teachings to SFGC members. Fifteen mesmerized students not only learned the art of Ikebana flower arranging, but also were given the philosophy behind the artful arrangement.

Born in Okayama Japan, Mr. Ikeda came to the United States in 1973. He graduated cum laude in 1979 from San Francisco State University. Talented in many artistic disciplines, Mr. Ikeda holds the rank of Professor of Sokakyo in the Ikenobo School of Ikebana, is a nationally recognized potter, has a background in film and has written articles for several publications. His pottery creations are in several museum gift shops, including the San Francisco Asian Art Museum.

Shuji Ikeda has studied Ikenobo for 25 years. When asked why he chose to study the art form, Mr. Ikeda said flowers provide an opportunity to express oneself and communicate without the benefit of language. Mr. Ikeda has given demonstrations and exhibited his work at Ikebana International events in San Francisco, Sacramento, Monterey, CA and San Antonio, TX. He has also exhibited his work at Bouquets to Art at the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco.

San Francisco Public Television will feature Mr. Ikeda in its March release of SPARK, KQED's portal for arts and culture in Northern California. He will be a featured speaker and demonstrator at the 2008 North American Regional Ikebana Conference in Monterey, CA. Mr. Ikeda teaches classes for beginners as well as advanced students in his Berkeley Studio.



SFGC students work to perfect their Ikebana creations.

Landscape Design

Final Call for some lucky member to win garden design.....

Every spring the Club gives members an opportunity to participate in a project which can give your garden the design you desire for that magnificent look.

Those interested in having their garden evaluated and designed are asked to submit their gardens as candidates for the subject of our annual Landscape Design Awards. This is an outstanding change to get a professional appraisal of your garden and a brand new landscape design.

Professor Chip Sullivan, UC-Berkeley and our February luncheon speaker, visits all selected gardens and chooses the one he feels offers the best academic exercise for his students. Then each student develops his or her ideas into a series of designs. The winner is recognized at the May Annual Meeting and winning entries are available for viewing by the membership.

Contact Lola Herr at 415-661-1533 to obtain further information or submit your garden.



Note:

A former SFGC Program awarded grants to Landscape Architect/Design students at UC Berkeley. The late SFGC Past President Lola Heer chaired the program for many years.

January Program

Eleanor Ketter Presents

Cultivating Resilience:
Protecting the Great Barrier Reef's
Underwater Garden

**San Francisco Garden Club
Thursday, January 16, 2025**

Eleanor Ketter former Senior Governance and
Risk Manager
Great Barrier Reef Marine Authority

Eleanor will just be returning from Australia with with her husband the
Consul General of Australia in San Francisco, for this event.
Eleanor has been honored by her country with the "25 year Public Service Medal"

- ✓ Government Relations Expert
- ✓ Strategic Planning and Research
- ✓ Policy and Legislation Development
- ✓ Major Project Negotiation
- ✓ Whole-of-Government Consultation Processes
- ✓ Business and Governance Management
- ✓ Media Management
- ✓ Project Planning and Management
- ✓ Public Sector Legislative Requirements and Processes
- ✓ Risk and Compliance
- ✓ Statutory Planning and Policy Development

Join Us Thursday, January 16, 2025
Social 11:30 AM~Lunch 12:15 PM~Presentation 1:00PM
\$75.00 Zelle/PayPal/Check: sfgardenclub.org
Reservations must be in by January 9, 2025
Please specify: Chicken Cobb Salad or Sweet Potato Chickpea Bowl (VG)

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Garden Gazette

Late Winter 2025

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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

If you prefer the vegetarian lunch, please advise Beverley Hayes:
beverleyhayes@sbcglobal.net by the RSVP date.

Thursday, January 16

Seated Luncheon Speaker Series Menu:

Chicken Cobb Salad or
Sweet Potato & Chickpea Bowl (VG)
Dessert: Apple Cobbler Chantilly
Coffee or Tea • Cost \$75.00 per person
RSVP by January 6th - \$10 late fee

Thursday, February 20

Seated Luncheon Speaker Series Menu:

SFGC Presidents' Luncheon
Mediterranean Chicken Salad
(VG option with no chicken is available)
or Lasagna
Dessert: Chocolate Duet Cake
Coffee or Tea • Cost \$75.00 per person
RSVP by February 9th - \$10 late fee

*Happy
Valentine's
Day*
February 14

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

GRAND TOTAL

Consider making a holiday contribution to the Garden Club to support the Alice Eastwood awards for deserving students, or neighborhood beautification projects through Civic Participation grants.

SFGC OFFICE

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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