



# GARDEN GAZETTE

*The San Francisco Garden Club*

Early Spring  
2025

The SFGC Presents with  
Misao Osumi  
*Wife of the Consul General of Japan*  
***One World: Two Voices***  
An Ikebana Journey

**March 20**  
Presidio Golf &  
Concordia Club

## Calendar

Tentative

### March

Saturday, March 1

CCSF Volunteer day

9:30 - Noon

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



### CCSF Volunteer Day

Saturday, March 1

9:30 - Noon

50 Judson Street  
*easy street parking*

Join Garden Club members  
Volunteer day at CCSF.

Bring your gloves, pruners and water.

Help Steven with repotting  
orchids, pruning in the nurseries, etc.  
If raining, the event will not be cancelled.  
We will stay dry in the greenhouses!

RSVP: Gail McCollom,  
415-260-7980  
gailmarymc@aol.com

# President's Letter



Hello SFGC Members and Friends,

Welcome to early spring! There are two back-to-back events this spring that bring tremendous joy and excitement.

*Our Past Presidents were honored on Thursday, February 20, 2025.*

During the special luncheon, we honored several of our esteemed past presidents: Sandra Swanson, Martha Woollomes, Tammy Braas-Hill, Lisa Harris, Gail McCollom, Betty Packard-Voris, and Bonnie Demergasso. Steven Brown enchanted us with exquisite floral arrangements, each designed specifically for the honorees. All proceeds from this event will benefit the Alice Eastwood Scholarship Fund which supports Environmental Horticulture and Floral Design students at City College of San Francisco.

"Who was Alice Eastwood? She was a pioneering botanist—both literally and figuratively a trailblazer—credited with building the botanical collection at the California Academy of Sciences." Recently, I had the privilege of watching a fascinating webinar by Amy Schneider, presented by the American Public Gardens Association. Amy seamlessly narrated the 1887 Russell Wallace and Alice Eastwood Expedition up Gray's Peak, Colorado, where they collected alpine specimens. We hope to invite Ms. Schneider for an in-person presentation in the near future. A special thank you to the American Public Gardens Association for offering such enriching programs.

*A Spectacular Ikebana Demonstration – Thursday, March 20, 2025.*

Prepare to be captivated by an extraordinary visual experience presented by the San Francisco Garden Club and Misao Osumi, wife of the Consul General of Japan in San Francisco. Mrs. Osumi will moderate this extraordinary day of artistry and cultural beauty. This once-in-a-lifetime event will feature two premier Ikebana masters and co-chairs of Ikebana International's San Francisco Bay Area chapter: Mrs. Mitsuko Maruyama will showcase the traditional techniques of the Ohara School, which emphasize harmony with nature and the changing seasons. Mr. Ron Brown, a non-traditional designer from the Sogetsu School, will present modern, individualistic creations using both natural and man-made materials in unexpected ways. Each designer will demonstrate three separate arrangements. After which, they will come together, working to create one final inspired arrangement.

*Remembering Misty Tyree*

In January, we lost yet another beloved, long-standing member of the SFGC, Misty Tyree. Her gregarious personality was a light that left us too soon. She will be deeply missed.

*RSVP Reminder*

As a courtesy to our venue, the Presidio Golf Course, Concordia Club, please remember that final guest counts, and menu selections are required 10 days before each event. This policy ensures the chef has ample time to prepare. Thank you in advance for your prompt RSVPs—you absolutely do not want to miss these incredible events! A softer note, I encourage each member to take time to introduce herself to at least one person at each event.

Warmest regards,  
Verona

**Happy  
St. Patrick's Day!**  
*March 17*

**In Memoriam  
Misty Tyree**  
January, 2025





# An Ikebana Journey

A Presentation From The San Francisco Garden Club And

Misao Osumi,

wife of the Consul General of Japan

## *One World: Two Voices* *An Ikebana Journey*

*With renowned Ikebana designers*

Mitsuko Maruyama & Ron Kodo Brown

Thursday, March 20

Registration: 10:00 am

Program: 10:30 am • Luncheon: 12:30 pm

*Presidio Golf and Concordia Club*

*8 Presidio Terrace, San Francisco*

Cost \$175 per person

Premium Seating and name in program: \$250

Reservations are limited.

This event is open to the public

RSVP with payment via Zelle, PayPal

or at [sfgclub@att.net](mailto:sfgclub@att.net))

or by check to the San Francisco Garden Club

640 Sutter Street # M, San Francisco 94102.

Reservations close March 12, 2025

Be sure checks are received by March 12, 2025





# January Meeting





# Presidents' Luncheon



Past Presidents: Tammy Braas-Hill, Martha Woollomes, Betty Voris, Lisa Harris, Sandra Swanson, Gail McCollom, Bonnie Demergasso





April 17<sup>th</sup> Program Speaker

**Virginia Ernster**

*Docent Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco*

**Program: 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Legion of Honor  
and history of the Legion of Honor**



Before joining the 2011 docent class of the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco, Virginia Ernster spent her career as an epidemiologist on the faculty of the UCSF School of Medicine, where she served as Chair of the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics and Associate Director of UCSF's Comprehensive Cancer Center. She conducted research on cancer risk factors and screening and for many years directed a course in the medical school's core curriculum. She was also a member of the Board of Scientific Advisors of the National Cancer Institute and received the U.S. Surgeon General's Medallion for her work as Senior Scientific Editor of the Surgeon General's report on Women and Smoking.

Virginia finds that being a docent has much in common with academic life: always learning new things, sharing that knowledge with others, and growing through interaction with the multiple rich points of view brought to the museums by visitors from near and far.

## SFGC Board of Directors 2025 - 2026

*Five positions to be approved at the  
Annual Meeting on May 15*

President: Lisa Harris (1 year to be approved)  
Vice President: Beverley Hayes (1 year remaining)  
Corresponding Secretary: Eva Monroe (2 years to be approved)  
Recording Secretary: Tish Brown (1 year remaining)  
Treasurer: Maureen Murry Fox (2 years to be approved)  
Director: Allison Harrison (2 years to be approved)  
Director: Lani Pringle (2 years to be approved)  
Director: Ly Ly (1 year remaining)  
Director: Jane Bradford Evans (1 year remaining)  
Immediate Past President: Verona Boucher

## Nominating Committee

*Chair Bonnie Demergasso  
Courtney Clarkson, Eva Monroe,  
Natasha Hopkinson, Lani Pringle*

## The San Francisco Garden Club and

**Misao Osumi**

wife of the Consul General of Japan

present on March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025

**One World: Two Voices**

*An Ikebana Journey*

Originating from Buddhist flower offerings in the 6th century, the exotic world of Ikebana has continually charmed viewers worldwide. **ONE WORLD: TWO VOICES** previews its journey via the talents of acclaimed Ikebana authorities Mitsuko Suiko Maruyama and Ron Kodo Brown. Misao Osumi, wife of the Consul General of Japan, is responsible for creating this event's concept and presentation.



From the traditional style of Ohara to the more avant-garde school of Sogetsu, Mitsuko Suiko Maruyama and Ron Kodo Brown will showcase the beauty and scope of each discipline. Mitsuko, a celebrated teacher of Ohara, and Ron, a highly recognized expert of Sogetsu, together will explain both history and technique as they alternate creating three arrangements each. In a dramatic climax, a design created by each will be combined into one magnificent finale.

The charm and culture of Ikebana is freedom of expression. The Ohara School of Ikebana, which emphasizes the beauty of natural environments was founded in 1895 when Japan began to import European flowers. The Sogetsu school was founded in 1927 and celebrates being an open-minded and avant-garde school.

Although Mitsuko and Ron have been friends for decades, neither have presented together. "This is going to be exciting," exclaimed Ron.

**ONE WORLD: TWO VOICES**, An Ikebana Journey is a return by the San Francisco Garden Club to its annual event which raises funds for its scholarship, community and philanthropic projects. It kicks off SFGC's year-long celebration leading up to its 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2026.

A three-course luncheon will follow the morning presentation. The main course is Grilled Sea Bass with Verjus Beurre Blanc with Tomato Sauce; please note with your reservation if you prefer a vegetarian alternative.

*Tickets are \$175; \$250 for premium seating and name in program. Reservations are limited and open to the public. Make your RSVP now with payment via Zelle or PayPal, at [sfgclub@att.net](mailto:sfgclub@att.net) or by check to San Francisco Garden Club, 640 Sutter Street # M, San Francisco CA 94102.*

*Reservation deadline is March 10<sup>th</sup>*

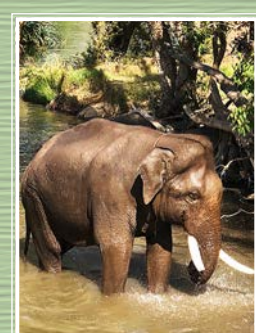
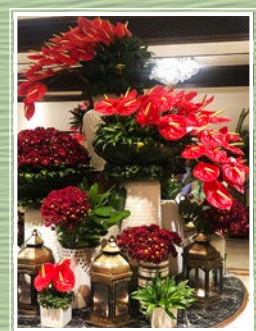
# Member Page

## Meet New Member Cindy Burt



Cynthia (Cindy) Burt is a retired registered nurse since 2012. She worked at the SF VA Medical Center for 25 years and previously at Mt Zion and Kaiser SF. Her career work was mostly in ICU but for the last 10 years she coordinated the Infectious Diseases Clinic at the VA, working mostly with patients with HIV. She has lived in SF since 1973 on Fair Oaks St near Dolores Park. She has been a member of Old First Presbyterian Church since 1973, serving as an elder and deacon. She has sung alto in the choir since joining the church. She volunteers for the Old First Concerts series. She has enjoyed taking continuing education classes at the Fromm Institute. She has a passion for reading, classical music, following politics, canning salsa and tomatoes each fall, and world traveling. She still hasn't been to Iceland or seen the Northern Lights, bucket list items for the future. She and her husband Chris, a Kiwi, own a home in New Zealand where they spend 2-3 months each year. She enjoys visiting the wonderful Auckland Botanical Garden to compare the many plants that grow in both SF and NZ. Her home gardening is limited to house plants, specifically orchids and a very large night blooming cereus. She is good friends with SFGC member Betty Voris, a member of her church.

## Jane Bradford Evans • Photos of India





## Development of the Gladiolus

*by Dr. Judith M. Taylor*

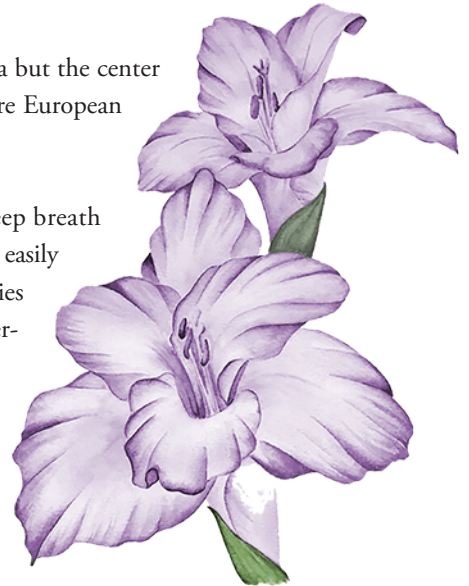
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he modern mature gladiolus is a tough looking customer as befitting a plant whose name is derived from the Latin for sword. Carl Linnaeus coined the name in Species Plantarum. Six or more sturdy blossoms march down the tall strong stem in perfect order. Look at them in your local supermarket or florist's. They stand up straight in those nondescript buckets as if they own the place. They come in numerous colors from white to deep purple though never in blue. Then take a look at a slightly fragile looking species gladiolus and compare the two. How did this enormous change occur?

Gladiolus has a fairly wide distribution in Mediterranean Europe, Asia and tropical Africa but the center of diversity is the Cape Province in South Africa. Of the approximately 260 species 10 are European and Asian. All the rest are African.

The nomenclature has undergone numerous revisions. Readers are advised to take a deep breath as they go through the next section. The beautiful modern hybrids which we can buy so easily nowadays have many antecedents and yet really only about a dozen of the available species have been intensively crossed. In the past few years breeders have begun looking into inter-generic crosses to breed in new desirable traits.

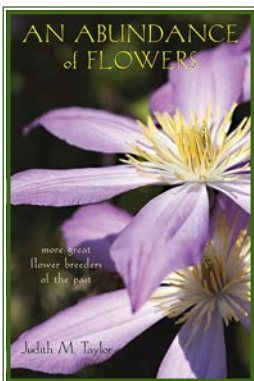
One European species, *Gladiolus communis* Mill, was recorded as early as 1575. Gerard mentioned it in his Herbal in 1597. Another species, *G. byzantinus*, was mentioned by John Parkinson in 1629. *G. byzantinus* was called the Corn Flag of Constantinople in those days. It too has had a new name. This flower is now *G. communis* subsp. *byzantinus* (Mill.) You may now exhale.



Queen Victoria visited Fontainebleau in 1853 with Prince Albert and was enchanted by the flowers. The noted French horticulturist Eugene Souchet had cunningly distributed vases of them among his borders to draw the visitors' eye. The queen succumbed. She requested that some of these plants be sent to her gardeners at Osborne. Once she went home to London and everyone heard about her enthusiasm English nurserymen got busy vying for the royal patronage.

The flowers was taken up almost simultaneously by a number of very gifted and driven breeders in several countries. An outstanding Canadian, Henry Groff, teamed with an upstate New York coal merchant Arthur Cowee to sell his prize winning cultivars.

Quite early in this process a farmers wife in Ohio, Mrs A. H. Austin began to be obsessed with the plant. She very quietly got her husband to buy a lot of extra land and ran a business, selling more than one million corms in a year. She was also an official in American Gladiolus Society and wrote articles for their magazine for years. Very few women were able to run a buisnes on that scale in the late 19th century. It took me a long time to find out that her given name was Iva.



*If you would like to learn more about Gladiolus, take a look at my book  
"An Abundance of Flowers: More Great Flower Breeders of the Past"*

*Find it on [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) There is a Kindle addition as well*



# Bouquets to Art

## Bouquets to Art • June 2-8, 2025



Bouquets to Art was born from an idea presented to the Museum Society Auxiliary by Ian McKibben White, who was then the director of the Fine Arts Museums. In 1985 Bouquets to Art made its debut at the M. H. de Young Memorial Museum.

When it began, Bouquets to Art was a small affair, with 46 floral displays celebrating the Fine Arts Museums' collections. Lectures and demonstrations were presented by well known Bay Area designers. The event drew hundreds of new visitors to the museum and the annual event was assured.

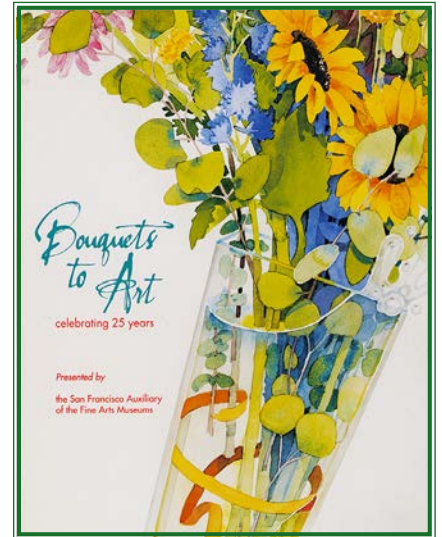
Since 1985, the event has been housed in three different museums: the M. H. de Young Memorial Museum, the Legion of Honor and the de Young. The diverse styles of these buildings greatly influenced the floral displays

The original M. H. de Young Memorial Museum, founded in 1895, was damaged by the Loma Prieta earthquake of 1989. While the new building was under construction, Bouquets to Art moved to the then recently refurbished Beaux Arts style Legion of Honor where it continued to flourish. The newly constructed de Young Museum designed by Herzog & de Meuron opened in 2005. In 2006, Bouquets to Art was transferred to the new building.

Bouquets to Art, a week-long event produced by the Fine Arts Museums Auxiliary, now includes: a beautiful opening night gala, an enticing week-long raffle, 2-4 lectures presented by prominent designers in the floral industry, Floral Fashions (creations by SF City College Floral Design students), and gorgeous floral arrangements that reflect the art displayed in the Museums. In 2025, exhibitors will be offered choices from 100 pieces of art. There will be 75 art choices at the de Young and 25 at the Legion of Honor. A special floral installation by a designer will be at the Legion of Honor to celebrate the return of Bouquets to Art.

Seven students supervised by Steven Brown, Chair of the Environmental Horticulture and Floral Design Department at SF City College will create the Floral Fashions for Bouquets to Arts. Floral Fashions will be on display in the Piazzoni Murals Room at the de Young Museum throughout the week. Eva Monroe, Jane Bradford Evans, Maureen Fox and Verona Boucher will represent the San Francisco Garden Club at the Legion of Honor.

Over the years proceeds from Bouquets to Art have funded special/major exhibitions, art acquisitions educational programs, and projects of the Museums. In 2025, Bouquets to Art will be held June 2-8.



*Art work used for Bouquets to Art's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2009. Original painting by Gary Bukvonik*



*M. H. de Young Memorial Museum*



*de Young Memorial Museum  
designed by Herzog & de Meurone*



*Legion of Honor*



# Presidents' Luncheon Florals

## Floral Arrangements Honoring SFGC Past Presidents

*Created by Steven Brown*



*Steven Brown*



*Lisa Harris & Steven*



*Steven & Gail McCollom*



*Steven & Martha Woollomes*



*Steven & Tammy Braas-Hill*



*Steven & Betty Voris*





# History Page

## A Page from the 2007 Garden Gazette

### *Floral Notes*



**Professor Chip Sullivan**, UC-Berkeley, invites all SFGC members to participate in his Pacific Horticulture Study Tour of Santa Barbara Gardens May 4 through 6. This springtime tour of Santa Barbara's most spectacular gardens will focus on the artistic process needed in order to observe and record our impressions of the garden.

Professor Sullivan, who presented a lively discussion at our February luncheon, also will give a short workshop on the art of keeping a sketchbook with tips on drawing and methods of field sketching and painting. The professor emphasizes that, although at each garden participants will sketch or paint selected views, no prior drawing or watercolor experience is necessary.

The \$539 to \$575 per person price does not include travel. The price includes double occupancy for two nights, all meals, services and garden entrance fees as well as a \$75 donation to Pacific Horticulture magazine.

For information and/or reservations, contact **Gisell's Travel, Group Department at 800.782.5545.**



### *Civic Participation*

#### **SFGC APPROVES CIVIC PARTICIPATION RECOMMENDATION OF UPGRADE TO CITY COLLEGE'S HORTICULTURE DEPARTMENT**

SFGC will invest \$25,000 in assisting with the refurbishment of Horticulture Programs at City College of San Francisco. The Board of Directors voted to accept the recommendation of the Civic Participation Committee at its February meeting.

With the donation, the club will supply materials for City College's Horticultural Department to rebuild its Student Greenhouse, construct a Formal Reading Garden and provide furniture and equipment for its Floristry Program Library.

According to department head Steven Brown, the students will benefit immeasurably from the upgraded greenhouse systems to its 30-year-old greenhouse/laboratory that the donation will provide. Students will rebuild the greenhouse using equipment and materials paid for with our grant.

The Formal Reading Garden will be a neat garden, carefully planned in a geometric and symmetric manner. The formal garden will have box-trimmed hedges lining or enclosing carefully laid out flowerbeds or garden beds and include pathways, statuary and a stately fountain. It will be available for use by both college and non-college students. While labor will be supplied by the students, the SFGC will supply the materials needed for completion.

In addition, shelf units and a copier for instructional use are needed to develop and update the Horticulture and Floral Design library to make it more accessible for students. Not only will SFGC purchase these for the department, but SFGC Librarian Judith Taylor has offered to help them organize and manage it.

Civic Participation Chair Ann Arnold is excited that the club will be involved in such a major way with City College. "They are such an integral part of what we do - both in programs and through the Alice Eastwood Scholarships, and this will help their program to achieve new heights," she commented.





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

# Garden Gazette

## Early Spring 2025

### EDITOR & LAYOUT

Martha Woollomes

### CONTRIBUTERS & PHOTOS

Cindy Burt, Verona Boucher,  
Jane Bradford Evans, Eva Monroe,  
Maureen Fox, Beverley Hayes,  
Gail McCollom, Dr. Judith Taylor,  
Betty Voris, Martha Woollomes

### 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

### Regular 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, March 20

*Ikebana Presentation & Luncheon fundraiser*  
The main course is Grilled Sea Bass with Verjus  
Beurre Blanc and Tomato Sauce. *Note with your  
reservation if you prefer a vegetarian alternative.*  
Cost \$175.00 per person  
Premium seating is \$250.00 per person  
RSVP by March 10<sup>th</sup>

### Thursday, April 17

*Seated Luncheon Speaker Series Menu:*

Chicken Enchilada or  
Fiesta Bowl (V) Beans, Rice,  
Roasted Vegetables, Cheese  
Dessert: Chef's Bite Size Duo  
Coffee or Tea  
Cost \$75.00 per person  
RSVP by April 7<sup>th</sup> - \$10 late fee

### Saturday, March 1

*CCSF Volunteer Day • 9:30 - Noon*  
50 Judson Street • Easy street parking  
Rain or Shine. If rain, we will be in the greenhouse.  
Bring your gloves, pruners and water.  
RSVP: Gail McCollom,  
415-260-7980 • gailmarymc@aol.com

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

### SFGC OFFICE

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