



GARDEN GAZETTE

The San Francisco Garden Club

Summer
2025

SFGC Annual Meeting

Thursday, May 15
Presidio Golf & Concordia Club

Flower Show & Silent Auction

Approval of 2025/2026

Board of Directors

President's Letter



Dear Members of the San Francisco Garden Club,
It has truly been an honor and a privilege to serve as SFGC President for the 2024–2025 term.

I extend my heartfelt thanks to you, the membership, as well as to the exceptionally talented Board Members, Directors, and Committee Chairs for your unwavering support throughout my tenure. Everyone brought invaluable skills and energy to the Board.

Bonnie and Betty contributed their wealth of corporate knowledge; our Treasurer, Maureen, applied a keen eye for detail; and Martha showcased stellar computer skills in producing our beautiful Gazettes. Tish and Gail did a wonderful job capturing key information in our meeting minutes. Beverley managed our monthly luncheons with artistry—curating menus, designing lovely centerpieces, and organizing dynamic presentations.

Donna led the Civic Participation Program with dedication, while Lani ensured a smooth and efficient membership process. Ly coordinated our activities with great care, and Eva always showed deep empathy in selecting the perfect card or flowers on behalf of the club. Judy, our historian, was diligent in preserving our legacy by uncovering important historical documents. Jane, our hospitality and registration manager, exhibited remarkable poise and patience at our luncheons. And finally, Natasha brought true passion to the Rewilding initiative, helping guide our club into a more sustainable future.

I am especially grateful for the many generous individual donations and silent auction contributions that supported the Alice Eastwood Scholarships, the Civic Participation Program, and the Gardens of Golden Gate Park. Together, we continued to fulfill our philanthropic mission to beautify the San Francisco Bay Area.

Through our collective efforts, we also hosted a highly successful fundraising event, raising over \$16,000, and a net of \$9,600. This was an incredible achievement. Additionally, since June 2024, we brought 11 new members and one reinstated member into the club.

As I look ahead, 2026 will be an exciting time for our organization, with the San Francisco Garden Club celebrating its 100th anniversary. I'm confident that the 2025-2026 new president and board members will execute a fantastic event!

Wishing you all a wonderful summer. See you in September!

Warmly,

Verona Boucher

May 15th Annual Meeting

Proposed SFGC Board of Directors 2025 - 2026

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

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 Murray 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

May Meeting

Spring Flower Show & Silent Auction 2025

The SFGC has a tradition of members bringing floral displays and specimen cuttings for its Annual Flower Show Silent Auction.

Thursday, May 15

Flower Show & Silent Auction 10:30 am

Luncheon begins at 12:15 pm

Meeting to follow

Presidio Golf & Concordia Club

Cost: \$75

Members contribute floral arrangements and specimen cuttings for display at the SFGC Annual Flower Show. Available for the highest bid, any design or specimen can add beauty to your home or make an elegant gift. Plan to arrive early so that you can view the display and choose your favorite.

*Join the fun and complete the form below
Email to Janis Burke - kjmburke@gmail.com*

Spring Flower Show 2025

San Francisco Garden Club's Annual Flower Show Entry

Name: _____

Title of arrangement _____

I will contribute BOTH my design/specimen and container to the Auction _____

I will contribute ONLY my design/specimen (no container) to the Auction _____

Email to Janis Burke - kjmburke@gmail.com

April Luncheon



SFGC President Verona Boucher



Speaker Virginia Ernster



Natasha Hopkinson



Verona Boucher, Betty Voris, Martha Woollomes



Bonnie Demergasso, Kathleen McNulty



Gail McCollom, Jane Evans, Lani Pringle



Melissa Crowell, Lisa Royals, Maureen Fox



Ruth Wolfe, Janis Burke



Marilyn Presten



Betty Smith, Marky Quayle



Lisa Klaimont



Lisa Harris



Ly Ly, Eva Monroe, Connie Lee



Anne Katz, Beverley Hayes

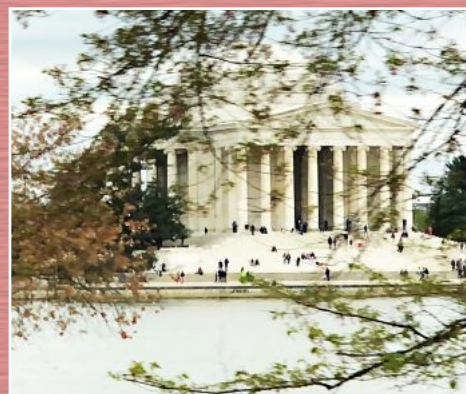


Natasha Hopkinson



Centerpiece

Washington DC Trip



Washington DC Trip

Memories of Washington D. C.

by Trip Leader Kathleen McNulty



After our highly successful 2024 Spring Tour to Santa Barbara and Montecito—thank you, Bonnie Demergasso—S.F. Garden Club travelers were eagerly looking forward to a 2025 adventure. But where? And when? Several said let's head East, perhaps Philadelphia? How about Washington, DC? Since we hadn't organized a trip to our nation's capital previously, the Travel Planning Committee decided to go to Washington, DC. So we met in late-October to choose our travel date, and begin planning the itinerary.1wwW;;w1

The highlight of Springtime in Washington, DC is the cherry blossoms. Although the bloom dates vary from year-to-year depending on Winter weather, peak blooming time is mid-March-to-mid-April. However, peak bloom predictions are not made until mid-February at the earliest. Clearly, we couldn't wait until then to select a date, so we went with history and our best instinct, and selected March 31 through April 4. Having

our travel dates, the Planning Committee—Eva Monroe, Jane Evans, Maureen Fox and I—began developing the itinerary, choosing our lodging, and selecting the gardens to visit.

Perhaps it was Martha's lovely promotional flyer in pink emphasizing the cherry blossoms, or maybe just luck, but our timing was impeccable—in February 2025, the National Park Service announced that peak blooming would be March 28–31, 2025. Peak bloom is when 70% of the iconic cherry blossoms open on the Yoshino cherry trees around the Tidal Basin. So the District was indeed very pink during our visit.

We based ourselves at the Hotel Lombardy, a charming, historic hotel and member of the National Trust's Historic Hotels of America. It is located on Pennsylvania Avenue, just west of the White House. The location was ideal for exploring the District.

Our tour began Monday night with a group Welcome Dinner at Zaytinya, one of the restaurants operated by Jose Andres who also operates World Central Kitchen, which provides meals on the front-lines to communities experiencing disasters. Our meal was a four-course meal featuring Greek, Turkish and Lebanese shared-plate specialties. Despite the typical Washington, DC spring, a thunderstorm erupted during dinner with a bright lightning show while we all enjoyed a wonderful meal together.

The next day we toured District Gardens, starting with the US Botanic Garden, which is located near the US Capitol. We visited the Conservatory and the Gardens surrounding the Bartholdi Fountain, or the Fountain of Light and Water, created by Frederic Auguste Bartholdi, who created the Statue of Liberty.

After our morning visit to the Botanic Garden we proceeded to the National Gallery of Art on the Mall where we had lunch at the Pavilion Cafe with its lovely views of the outdoor Sculpture Garden, our afternoon destination. Among the highlights of the Sculpture Garden are Spider, Typewriter Eraser, Thinker on a Rock, and the Chagall glass and stone mosaic.

On Wednesday morning we headed out of the District in our van to Mount Vernon, about 15 miles from the District in the Virginia countryside. Maureen Fox arranged our day there, which consisted of a private tour through some of the Mansion rooms and the gardens and grounds. We also had a private wreath-laying ceremony at George Washington's tomb, where Mike Monroe, Eva's husband, served as our military veteran representative, and Bonnie Demergasso, part-time olive oil producer, served as our farmer, two phases of George Washington's life story.

After lunch at Mount Vernon we rejoined our van and did some sightseeing on our way back to the hotel. We drove through Alexandria, then crossed over the Potomac at Arlington National Cemetery and viewed the Lincoln, Korean War, Martin Luther King, and Jefferson Memorials before making a stop at the World War II Memorial.

Thursday morning we gathered early to board our van and drove to the Hillwood Estate Gardens and Museum, the former home of Marjorie Merriweather Post. Jane Evans arranged tours of the exquisite house and amazing gardens and our delicious group lunch there. After lunch, we re-boarded our van and headed to Dumbarton Oaks, also in the Northwest quadrant of the District. Eva Monroe

Washington DC Trip

coordinated our visit to Dumbarton Oaks, rated one of the world's Top 10 Gardens by National Geographic. Both gardens were not-to-be-missed experiences.

The week sped by and after our Thursday garden visits it was time to celebrate at our Farewell Dinner at Taberna Del Alabadero, an historic Spanish restaurant located near our hotel. Again we shared a delightful, multi-course dinner starting with shared tapas and continuing through dessert, accompanied by delightful Spanish wines.

And then, just like that...it was Friday, time to check out of the Hotel Lombardy as our 2025 Spring Garden adventure came to a close. For the Lucky 13 who experienced the trip first-hand, all had a wonderful time sharing gardens, meals, and sight-seeing with each other. For those of you reading this, I hope you enjoy the recap of our time in and around Washington, DC and that you too will join us on a future tour.

What is next for the Garden Club Travelers? Well, we've already started planning for a 2026 trip, destination, dates, and details soon to-be-announced. Stay tuned!

Washington D. C. Travelers

Leader Kathleen McNulty
Courtney Clarkson & Roy Leggitt
Eva & Mike Monroe
Maureen Fox & her Mom, Nancy Murray

Beverley Hayes & friend Diane Dorsa
Jane Evans
Joanne Squire
Bonnie Demergasso & friend Bob Anderson



Horticulture Page

SOME MUSINGS ON THE TULIP

by Dr. Judith M. Taylor



I do not know about you but every so often I read a book which is utterly trans-formative. Once I have read it I am no longer the same person as I was before. I will spare you all the gauzy lyrical thoughts floating above my head but will tell you that Diana Everett's book, "The Species Tulipa", about wild tulips has done just that. Not only did she take admirable photographs but she also painted the flowers in the open air with water colors.

We are accustomed to seeing a relatively small number of varieties, especially the Darwin type, very widely distributed and as Anna Pavord says in her excellent book "The Tulip," used like wallpaper. They are planted over acres of parks and public gardens, usually massed by color. These layouts have their own predictable attraction but once you have seen an exquisite wild tulip with pointed petals and sometimes fringes nothing can ever be the same again.

Tulips originate in the Middle East, often in the "stans", countries once part of the Soviet Union but now independent and sometimes at war with each other. Mrs Everett made a number of pilgrimages to those places to find as many species as she could and it was fairly nerve wracking at times. She would see a mountain side covered with just what she was seeking but young boys with AK 15s in their hands frowned, pointed their guns at her and would not let her climb up to get close.

Everyone associates tulips with the Netherlands and it is true they export more stems than any other country. Some of us who have paid a bit more attention associate the flower with Turkey because in 1554 a Belgian diplomat to The Porte at Constantinople, Ogier Ghislain de Bubeq, sent tulips back to a botanist in Europe for the first time. The first time they appeared in Western print was in 1559. Conrad Gestner wrote about them in his herbal. He had seen them in a garden in Augsburg and thought they were a special kind of red lily.

The ones who go to the top of the class know that tulips reached Turkey from Persia and that they are endemic to the cold, inhospitable and frequently inaccessible mountains in the hinterlands of Persia. They thrive in poor soil and very hardscrabble surroundings, even deserts. These are the kind which do best in rock gardens rather than being pampered in a conventional home garden.

But wait, there is more. The very name we use is due to a misunderstanding. In Farsi and later in Turkish the flower is known as "laleh", the "flower of God". The letters in its name are the same as those in the name of "Allah".

The word tulip is believed to have arisen because when a European pointed to the flower it was stuck in a Turk's turban, "tulp". The interpreter thought the question was about the turban, not realizing that it was the flower which attracted the visitor's attention. No one will ever know.

In the seventeenth century the Dutch went completely mad over the tulip. From time to time blossoms would appear with fascinating red streaking which really livened up an ordinary white flower. No two were alike and the anticipation was intense. What color would a new bulb throw up and what were its striations like? It seemed impossible to predict and so normally hardheaded Dutch businessmen began to place bets on what would emerge. Very soon in the 1630s there was a full scale stock bubble where bulb futures would change hands for thousands of guilders. As with similar bubbles in other investments it eventually came crashing down leaving a lot of people suddenly very poor indeed.

These unlucky gamblers could not have known that the attractive streaking was due to an infection with a virus in the bulb and that weakened the plant itself very badly. Owning actual tulips was a costly business even without the bubble. In the end the unfortunate owner was left with an unhealthy plant the following year.

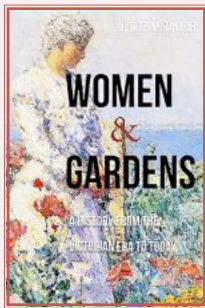
Only wealthy families could afford tulips. One social rank down satisfied themselves with the next best thing: pictures of the flowers. A handful of artists began to specialize in painting the exotic flowers coming from the East, a number of them very gifted women. Judith Leyster comes to mind. Huge vases crammed with dozens of flowers including of lot of tulips led to very attractive paintings. The paintings had another significant advantage. They were permanent. After the initial outlay you did not have to spend any more money.

Not even roses ever caused this same level of madness over a flower.

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This & That

Beautiful Wisteria in Stephanie Angeli's Garden



Link to a YouTube interview with

Dr. Judith Taylor
discussing her new book
Women & Gardens
A History from the
Victorian Era to Today

<https://youtu.be/aP573cC8eBw>

City College of San Francisco
Environmental Horticulture/Floristry Department

**Spring
Flower and Plant Sale
Scholarship Fundraiser**

**Thursday
May 8, 2025**

11:00 AM-1:00 PM

375 Judson Avenue
Ocean Campus/ north side
Between Genessee and Foerster Streets

**featuring student grown
house and bedding plants
veggie starts
herbs
floral designs**

sorry no pre/post sales
no special orders
cash or check only

information
415-239-3140

check out our programs @
www.ccsf.edu/eh/f

Bylaw Change

Current reading:

Article 3: Directorsat

Section 1: Number

The corporation should have nine (9) directors and collectively they shall be known as the board of directors. The number shall be changed by amendment of this bylaw, or by repeal of this bylaw and adoption of a new bylaw, as provided by these bylaws.

Section 4. Terms of office

Each director shall hold office until the next annual meeting for election of the board of directors as follows:

The term of the president shall be for one (1) year with the option of serving for a second year if requested to do so; the president, vice president, recording secretary, and three (3) directors shall be elected in an even numbered year; and the president, corresponding secretary, treasurer and (2) directors shall be elected in odd numbered years.

The change offered to the membership shall be sub-paragraph 2 and will read as:

The president, vice president, recording secretary, and two (2) directors shall be elected in an even numbered year; and

The reasoning: In 2019 Article 3: Directors was amended by member vote to reduce the number serving on the board of directors from 15 to 9.

However, Article 4 was not changed and, as a result, in even numbered years those elected to the board totaled 10, which was not consistent with the 2019 bylaw change. Making this change will keep the annual board of directors legally at nine (9) per year.

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Garden Gazette

Summer 2025

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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

Annual Meeting

Flower Show/Auction 10:30 • Lunch 12:15 • Meeting to follow

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

Thursday, May 15

Annual Meeting Luncheon Menu

Asian Chicken Salad or
Pasta Primavera (VG) – with cheese on the side
Dessert: Lemon Bar Royal
Coffee or Tea
Cost \$75.00 per person
RSVP by May 5th - \$10 late fee



Name: _____

Phone # _____

Ways to pay

- On the SFGC website: <https://sfgardenclub.org>
- By check: Sent to the SFGC Office
- Via Zelle or PayPal: sfgclub@att.net

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.

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PLEASE INFORM THE

Corresponding Secretary Eva Monroe
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so that the appropriate acknowledgment can be sent.
Email: evamonroe@me.com