

January 2014



The Seattle Garden Club

Member of The Garden Club of America

General Meeting

January 16, 2014

UWBG/CUH

9:30 am Social

10:00 am Meeting

Guests Welcome!

**PLEASE RESPOND
YES OR NO**

Carol Eland, 206-324-5414 or
caroleland@msn.com

Author Debra Prinzing will Inspire "Greener" Flower Arrangements with Talk on Slow Flower Movement



Debra Prinzing is a Seattle and Los Angeles based outdoor living expert who writes and lectures on gardens and home design. Debra will speak about her recently published book, *Slow Flowers; Four Seasons of Locally Grown Bouquets from the Garden, Meadow and Farm*. Just as the slow food movement has changed our relationship with food, now the slow flower movement is changing the way we think about cut flowers.

Slow Flowers is written from a DIY floral designer's point of view, to inspire anyone to go green and make a beautiful bouquet with what's at hand, no matter the season. It's a terrific resource with design tips, bouquet "recipes" and floral ingredients to create arrangements when not much is growing locally. With 52 arrangements, one for each week of the year, Debra makes a compelling case that each season has its own botanical character to be celebrated.

Debra has a background in textiles, journalism, landscape design and horticulture. A frequent speaker for garden, horticultural society and flower show audiences, Debra is also a regular radio and television guest and a contributing garden editor for *Better Homes & Gardens*. She writes for numerous magazines including *Sunset*, *Garden Design*, *Organic Gardening*, *Horticulture*, *Fine Gardening* and the *Alaska Airlines Magazine*. In addition to *Slow Flowers*, she is the author of *The 50 Mile Bouquet: Local, Seasonal and Sustainable Flowers*; *Stylish Sheds and Elegant Hideaways*; and *The Abundant Garden*.

Books will be available for purchase and signing at the meeting.

EVENTS AT A GLANCE

Happy New Year 2014

1/6/14 **Horticulture Meeting**, UWBG/CUH, 9:30 am Social, 10 am Program
Presentation by Provisional Diana Ackerley

Community Projects Meeting, UWBG/CUH, following Hort Meeting

1/8/14 **Policy and Planning Meeting**, home of Catherine Parker, 10 am

1/9/14 **Board Meeting**, Sunset Club, 10 am

1/16/14 **General Meeting**, UWBG/CUH, 9:30 am Social, 10 am Program, as noted above

1/20/14 **Photography Committee Meeting**, home of Juliet Romano, 9:30 am Social, 10 am Speaker

**FOR MORE SGC INFORMATION AND A CALENDAR OF EVENTS,
CLICK ON OUR WEBSITE: www.seattlegardenclub.org**

From the President



I'm not sure where 2013 went, but 2014 is soon to arrive!

As I look back on the fall, we got off to a wonderful start with interesting and informative Provisional Hort Talks, incredible General Meetings and a most festive Holiday Auction and Luncheon. Reindeer antlers off (and shelved until next year) for everyone who worked so hard to make the fall programs and luncheon a success!

I am looking forward to brightening the dark days of January with garden club activities! Provisional Diana Ackerley will present her Hort Talk the first Monday of the month, January 6, and Debra Prinzing, author of *The Fifty Mile Bouquet*, will speak at our General Meeting on January 16.

Marilee Ahalt, President Elect, with her Policy and Planning Committee, will be preparing for the Annual Business Meeting in February.

Our zone and club have been honored by having two very deserving members voted in by the GCA Executive Board and GCA Board of Directors to hold Garden Club of America positions: Iris Wagner will become a director on the GCA Board of Directors representing Zone XII; and Pam Green will be the Zone XII Nominating Representative. Their terms are for two years and will commence on July 1, 2014. Be sure to congratulate Pam and Iris when you see them!

Wishing you all a happy, healthy new year!

Catherine Parker, Club President

Community Projects



The Community Projects Committee is delighted to report that the following proposals have been submitted to SGC for requests for funds:

- SGC application to refurbish and replant part of the CUH Fragrance Garden
- Woodland Park Zoo to create sustainable Rose Garden
- UWBC (Arboretum) for improvements to the Camellia gardens
- Seattle Parks Foundation for Rainier Beach Urban Farm Improvements

The Community Projects Committee will begin its review of the proposals at our January 6 meeting, immediately following the Hort meeting.

We invite the input of all SGC members, and you are welcome to attend our first meeting to review the proposals. Please let me know if you wish to attend.

Carlyn Steiner, Community Projects Chair

In Memoriam

We regret the passing of
Mary Jane Clark
on November 7, 2013
Sustaining Member, Joined SGC 1975

Photo Unavailable

My ballet work influenced me a lot [in designing my garden]. I was repeating my thoughts with the plants. I put them like the dancers into what I thought the right places and then moved them about.

Frederick Ashton



SGC Holiday Luncheon and Auction



The Sunset Club once again provided the perfect backdrop for our fundraising efforts. SGC members and their guests rose to the occasion, and while having a good time, it appears that we have made approximately \$30,000 towards our Community Projects.

Every contribution has been vital to the feeling of community and the success of our event. A true group effort, it would not have been possible without the support of our many members: providing auction items and donations, volunteering hours of service, attending and inviting guests, actively bidding and signing up for the many experiences offered throughout this next year. **The Ways & Means Committee thanks you all!** And, I thank the entire Ways & Means Committee for being such great partners in making it all happen!

WERE YOU UNABLE TO ATTEND THE AUCTION/LUNCHEON? OR UNABLE TO MAKE YOUR WAY TO SOME OF THE EVENT SIGN UPS?

As is the case each year, we have openings in some fabulous events planned throughout the year:

Feb 11 VIA TRIBUNALI PIZZA EXTRAVAGANZA. Gourmet pizza making, dinner & wine \$80/person

Mar 13 CONSERVATION COMMITTEE EVENT: "A FIERCE GREEN FIRE." Viewing of a not yet released, award-winning documentary on the history of the environmental movement (will be released on public TV on Earth Day); narrated by Robert Redford, Meryl Streep, etc....held at Gretchen Hull's with wine/hors d'oeuvres; director to be skyped in afterwards for Q & A \$50/person

May 21 BOARD SPRING COCKTAIL PARTY. This fun party will be held at Catherine Parker's \$75/person

April 30 SPECIAL GARDENS: RHODODENDRON SPECIES, BONSAI, POWELLSWOOD. Tours of gardens and lunch at Powellswood \$60/person

July 11 CLAMDIGGING AT SEKIEU. Take home your bucket of clams/oysters and enjoy a great lunch at Mary Jane Anderson's beach at Sekieu \$75/person

Aug 14 ART CLASS AND LUNCH. Visit the gardens of Gayle Harris & Karen Simmonds; create your own garden art cement leaf under tutelage of artist Gayle Harris (normally a \$75 class); enjoy a lovely lunch at Gayle's \$120/person

Sept 19 BIRD WATCHING. We go where the birds go! Birding day trip lead by Kevin Annerud with hosted lunch. Location determined by best viewing on the date. \$90/person

Contact Suzette if you are interested in any of these great outings!

SGC Northwest Harvest Donations

We continued the tradition of encouraging donations to Northwest Harvest at our Holiday Auction and Luncheon. I was thrilled to deliver contributions from our members to this fine organization in the amount of \$2,370!!! Thank you for your generosity!

Suzette de Turenne, Ways & Means Chair
sdeturenne@comcast.net or 206-524-9042

Holiday Luncheon and Auction 2013



Many thanks to our dedicated Ways & Means Committee!



Phoebe Andrew, Marilee Ahalt and Iris Wagner prepare to take credit card numbers



Diana Ackerley, Carol Eland and Patsy Pattison sort name tags



Ways & Means Chair Suzette de Turenne celebrates with Karen Simmonds



Jo Anne Rosen and Lexie Robbins take a break from auction bidding



Bev Martin, Laurie Riley and Mary Turner enjoy the festivities



Guest Barbara Goesling, Alex Morse, Nancy Parker and Lyn White gather to say good-bye



Fay Page hugs her furry friend



Dedicated luncheon volunteer Judy Phillips and Betty Bottler make merry

Gardener's Corner

Thoughts for January



- Most indoor plants benefit from increased humidity levels during winter months. Place pots on a tray of pebbles adding water when needed. Keep water level below pot bottom to prevent root rot.
- Propagate leggy indoor plants by air-layering.
- Browse catalogs, visit nurseries with a friend and look for bareroot fruit trees, raspberries, grapes and other fruit. Find disease-resistant varieties and note if your choice is self-pollinating. Simplify pruning and harvesting by choosing dwarfing rootstocks.
- Cut hybrid tea roses back by a third, leaving three healthy canes. Prune landscape roses to shape.
- Prune fruit and deciduous trees and many shrubs during this dormant period.
- Begin the New Year with a spa treatment for yourself! You've earned it, agree?

Janet Footh

Photography Committee

A Photography Committee meeting will be held on Monday, January 20, 2014, at the home of Juliet Romano. Coffee at 9:30 am; speaker starting at 10 am.

Our speaker is Justin Reznik, nature and travel photographer. After his presentation we will have a discussion on the subject of "Everything You Have Always Wanted To Know About Entering A Photography Show."

Mary Turner, Photography Committee Chair
206-325-0270, mturner915@aol.com

Seattle In Focus

Check out the Photography Schedule for our June Club Show. **Suzy Titcomb will accept online registration emails for SGC members only beginning January 16, 2014, at 8 am.**

'First timers' encouraged!

Please see the Schedule for further information:
www.seattlegardenclub.org

Floral Design

The Floral Design Committee was out in full force for the Holiday Auction Luncheon. The Committee designated the theme: "Holidays Around the World---Family Traditions, Songs and Stories." Eighteen tables were decorated with floral arrangements that ranged from a collection of pink poodles and peonies to a treasured nativity scene from Germany. Provisionals and active members of the Floral Design team showed their skills and creativity. Judges in Floral Design made constructive comments. Guests were given a view of some family collections and delightful designs.

The Floral Design Committee will provide the program for the Horticulture meeting in February. Stay tuned!

Debby Smith, Floral Design Chair



A delicious floral confection by Edie Tenneson



Sheila Wyckoff-Dickey with Candace Lancaster and her Nutcracker Tea Party



Jill Crutcher's arrangement featuring Santa Sleigh and plaid scarf



Traditional Father Christmas by Marilee Ahalt

Hort Report

The New Year is upon us, and we're looking ahead to the events that await us in 2014! Before moving into 2014, I'd like to recap our last Horticulture meeting on November 4, 2013. Megan Smith deserves high marks for her outstanding presentation on the Pacific Connections Collection at the Washington Park Arboretum! Highlighting spectacular and unusual plants that thrive in both northern and southern hemispheres peaked my curiosity. Her tour following her talk answered many questions: what to plant for winter color, texture, shade, flowering and evergreen plants that are so different from the 'norm.' What a treasure trove of unusual plants to enjoy in our own backyard without taking the 20+ hour trip across the globe! Megan's enthusiasm sparked my interest to try plants from 'Down Under.' I recommend a trip to the Arboretum to relax and breathe in the fresh air, enjoy spectacular views of the city AND learn names of intriguing plants that thrive in our neighborhoods.

The Seed Share project was a particular highlight this fall, culminating at the November General Meeting on the 21st. All of the seed packets were distributed, which means everyone who received seeds must try to grow them, show them and eventually share them. I'll be interested to receive your comments and pictures that document these efforts by this time next year. Take note!

Diana Ackerley will be sharing her expertise on fragrant shrubs and vines at the January 6th meeting. Please come and breathe in the aromatic plants that will awaken your plant juices to flow even though it's winter! Who knows, you may get a whiff of something delightful in our own Fragrance Garden en route to the meeting?

Catherine Allan, Hort Chair

January Hort Share

A New Year! The fresh face of Hellebores! Let's see how many different kinds we can bring. Plus we look forward to a splendiferous display of Sassanquas. And surprises you may have in your garden. A branch of Magnolia buds? Some forced Quince? Forsythia? Hamamallis? Can't wait. See you there.

Vicki Reed

January 6 Hort Meeting

UWBG/CUH

9:30 am Social, 10 am Meeting
Presentation by Diana Ackerley
on Fragrant Shrubs and Vines,
Tour of the Fragrance Garden

Garden Club of America Will Help You Save Face!



Oftentimes when we mention that we are garden enthusiasts, people assume we have deep buckets of knowledge and ask our advice about the current blistering of their rare paw paw tree or some sort of thing. Many of us are indeed extremely knowledgeable and will be able to advise, but others of us, such as myself, could use a little assistance. Fortunately, Garden Club of America has come to our rescue with two publications, *Sowing Seeds* and *Vegetative Propagation*.

If your experience of planting seeds has been, as mine has, with kindergartners poking beans into eggcups and crossing fingers that in three weeks there will be sprouts, then *Sowing Seeds* will be a godsend to you. It gives you everything. For instance, I know washing hands between planting different seeds is important, but at what bleach solution (1 Tbls per gallon see pg.3). And I was aware that presoaking or scarification was beneficial but for how long and what water temperature. The publication carefully lays that out.. It also gives detailed instruction on that fragile phase of repotting. There's a good glossary at the end of the article. Those who are more knowledgeable will enjoy the links to such interesting GCA articles as camellia grafting and growing ferns from spores. It's all at www.gcamerica.org!

Carey Davis

Conservation Corner

Great interest and excellent tours highlighted the Bullitt Center in November. More than 30 SGC members explored and absorbed the wonderful and varied ideas generated to make building on this planet more eco-friendly. Composting toilets, recycling rainwater, tall windows to take advantage of ambient light, human friendly, toxin-free materials, special blinds to automatically adjust to glare and temperature, fancy windows and even a few gardens maintained using gray water sparked our attention. A huge thank you to all who attended! A fascinating lecture by Chris Rogers of Point 32, the company that steered the building process, followed on November 21 at our General Meeting.

Next month, the state legislature begins on January 13, 2014. Instead of a lobby day in Olympia, The Environmental Priorities Council (a compendium of a dozen environmental groups) is targeting a campaign entitled "60 days-60 ways." The two main priorities are closing a tax loophole that benefits Big Oil (\$41 million dollars this year) and protecting our communities from the increasing threat of oil spills. To learn more and/or get involved go online at <http://environmentalpriorities.org>.

In late February, Sheila Dickey and I will attend the National Affairs and Legislation Committee in Washington, DC to learn about environmental priorities at the National Garden Club level. We join ranks with the Tacoma Garden Club members attending to meet with Patty Murray, Maria Cantwell and our house representatives to lobby. This exciting and busy event is attended by over 300 garden club members from all over the United States. We receive a thoroughly researched, vetted and (might I say) impressive environmental stance compendium. It is thoughtful reading. Please let me know if you would like me to email you a copy, once I receive it.

Carolyn Kitchell, Conservation Committee Chair



A Bullitt Center docent explains to SGC members and guests that a prominent stairway and hidden elevators encourage a healthful walk up the stairs

Orchard Trees, January

It's not the case, though some might wish it so
Who from a window watch the blizzard blow

White riot through their branches vague and stark,
That they keep snug beneath their pelted bark.

They take affliction in until it jells
To crystal ice between their frozen cells,

And each of them is inwardly a vault
Of jewels rigorous and free of fault,

Unglimpsed until in May it gently bears
A sudden crop of green-pronged solitaires.

Richard Wilbur

East Montlake Park

East Montlake Park was frozen stiff when I last checked in December. Hopefully, during January we'll be able to get planting once again.

Watch for e-blasts from me and know that your efforts and help are always welcomed!

Sue Blethen



Looking Ahead

2/3/14 **Horticulture Meeting**, UWBG/CUH, 9:30 am Hort Show Preparation, 10 am Program
Hosted by the Floral Design Committee

Community Projects Committee Meeting, UWBG/CUH,
Following Hort Meeting

2/6/14 **Board Meeting**, Sunset Club, 10 am

2/20/14 **General Meeting**, UWBG/CUH, 9:30 am Social, 10 am Program.
SGC Annual Business Meeting for members only



GCA Encourages us to Use Email

If you currently receive this newsletter via U.S. Mail and would like to receive it via email, please contact me. We are happy to reduce waste and expenses, in keeping with GCA policies. Thank you!

Jenny Wyatt, Communications Chair

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