

Seattle Garden Club

All The Buzz

January, 2023

www.seattlegardenclub.org



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Newsletter editor:
Edie Tenneson

Welcome to 2023!

As I write this today in Seattle, there will be daylight for only eight hours, 25 minutes, and 25 seconds. Hardly enough time (or warmth) to go out and do a little gardening. But as they like to say in weather reports – this means Spring is coming!

From a weather perspective, the seasons lag the winter and summer solstices since it takes time for the sun to warm the Earth's surface, ground, and water. So, our coldest month of the year is January even though the length of daylight has grown from today's. The same goes for July being our warmest month of the year, even as our hours of daylight will have begun to shrink.

It may seem dark outside right now – all the better to enjoy the holiday twinkle lights - but by the Summer Solstice in mid-June there will be just over 16 hours of daylight in Seattle. Think of all the gardening we can accomplish then!

A few short weeks ago, 100 members and their guests attended the SGC Holiday Luncheon. Tori Ragen, Sarah Robinson, and their Ways and Means Committee members outdid themselves. Thank you to all of you, including Charlee Reed, for coordinating a flawless luncheon with the Sunset Club. Thanks to the many photographers who contributed, there is a wonderful photo collage of the event in the following pages.

SGC has a busy spring calendar, starting with the very special field trip to the new UW Biology Department Greenhouse on January 9th. This was arranged by our Hort Chairs, Carey Davis and Ann McCutchan, and it will be a real treat to have a private tour. For your calendars, GCA will hold a photography study group conference on January 26th and a Floral Design Conference on February 28th. The GCA National Affairs and Legislation Conference (NAL) will take place in Washington DC on March 12-15 in Washington DC. We shall be sending two delegates and many parts of the conference will be on ZOOM for all GCA members. More details later, but please, mark your calendars.

Looking forward to Spring already!

Peggy-Paige Most
SGC President

Ways and Means

November 30th Holiday Auction

Thank you to all the SGC members and their guests for making the 2022 online auction a huge success. To date, we have raised over \$70,000 towards supporting our community projects. Just amazing!

There are a few spots remaining in some of the auction experiences. If you are interested in joining, please email Tori or Sarah.

Mexican Train Party	1 spot
Ancient Lakes Hiking Excursion	1 spot
Waterfront Project Tour 4/19	1 spot
Birdwatching with Barbie and Burnley	1 spot
Norcliffe Garden Tour and lunch	12 spots
Waterfront Project Tour 6/14	4 spots
Clamming and lunch at Dabob Beach	2 spots
Raclette Party	3 spots
Japanese Tea House Dinner	1 spot

We also want to thank all those who donated and/or procured such wonderful items which helped make this auction a great success. And a big thank you to the Ways and Means Committee members for their hard work putting together this year's auction. We had such fun!

Tori Ragen and Sarah Robinson
Ways and Means Co-chairs



2022 Holiday Luncheon

December 8th - Sunset Club



Wade, Betsy and the Provisionals

The Seattle Garden Club's annual Holiday Luncheon was a festive feast full of friends and flowers. A big thank you to Charlee Reed and her Meeting Arrangements helpers, to the Ways and Means Committee, the centerpiece creators and wreath makers, and to everyone who attended!



The Ways & Means Committee



Burnley Synder at the piano

Horticulture

SAVE THE DATE!!!

Beat the Winter Shivers- Come to the Tropics!

The rainy, cold, and dark days of January are better suited for daydreaming over colored catalogues than gardening, but you and your spirits can warm up by visiting the University of Washington biology department's new greenhouse and enjoying over 3,000 tropical, desert, and even carnivorous plants to momentarily escape into brightness. The Seattle Garden Club is fortunate to be able to have a 60-minute tour of this 20,000 square foot, highly efficient building. The tour takes place on **JANUARY 9th, meeting at 12:45PM, tour beginning at 1:15PM**. The building is located at 347 W. Stevens Way NE, near the Burke-Gilman Trail, or parallel to Pacific Street. The best parking is the garage at the 40th & 15th entrance to the University. From there, walk down Stevens to the LSB entrance, take stairs or elevator to the lower level. This field trip is brought to you by the Horticulture Committee and is in place of the January meeting. Note the times and day. Hope you can come. It's going to be a great show! Sign up soon. **Spaces are limited.** Go to:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0c4cada92baa8-april>.

Carey Davis/Ann McCutchan
Horticulture Committee Co Chairs



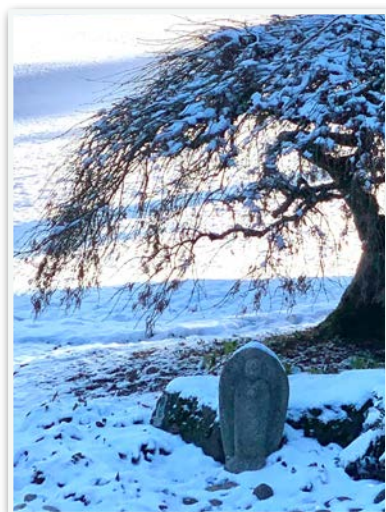
Native Plants: Vanilla Leaf/Achlys triphylla

It would be a challenge to find any lowland forest in the Olympics and Cascades even on the drier eastern side that did not include this rather modest but lovely native. It is of the barberry family and like trilliums, which it often grows near, has three large clover-like leaves from which emerges a small tuft of a white flower, rather like a baby's first lock of hair. There are no blossoms and the purplish fruit is neither significant nor tasty. The vanilla leaf grows from rhizomes or seeds. It offers a perfect deterrent to such weeds as blackberry, ivy and runaway vinca. Easily reseeding itself, the plant can become tolerant of drought. Truly a green marvel is created when this wild native is placed under rhododendrons and katsura trees.

This plant was named for the goddess of sorrow, Achlys, undoubtedly because when dried it has a sweet fragrance that was used in burials. Pioneer women have used the aroma from dried dead leaves to freshen trunks, drawers and closets. The scent is of vanilla, although it is not edible and not related to the vanilla in your cookie. Enjoy. -Carey Davis



Winter Solstice Member Photos



Jeannie Gravenkemper



Fay Page



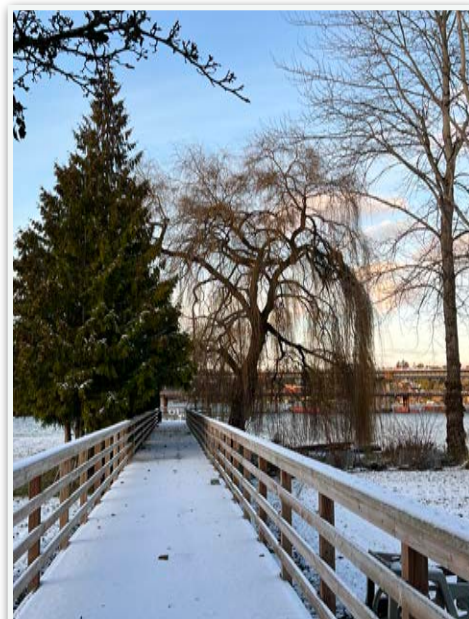
Mary Turner



Suzette deTurenne



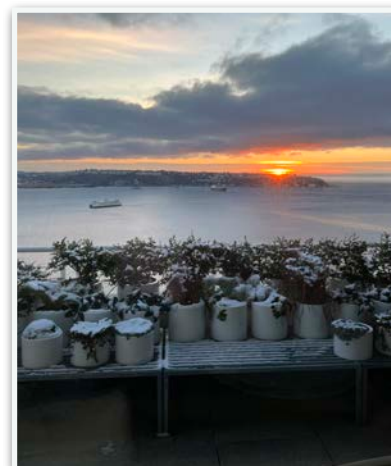
Suzy Titcomb



Edie Tenneson



Charlee Reed



Nancy Bain

Provisionals

On December 6th we met with the Provisionals to help them in their search for inspiration for their Winter Wonderland themed Holiday Luncheon centerpieces. Joan Harkins, a member of the Floral Design committee, organized our day and was our hostess, taking us to three wholesale flower and floral design markets.

Left to right:
Christina Koons
Liz McKallor
Erin Kea
Lucy Glenn
Rachel Stroble
Julie English
Betsy Larson
Wade
Garretson



Hospitality Sign Up - General Meetings

Our general meetings are seeking Hospitality Volunteers

Please consider [signing up \(select here\)](#) for meetings. Email not required, however it will enable you to get an automatic reminder two days before the meeting if email included.

Thank you for volunteering if you are able.

Link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0c4cada92baa8-sgc2022>

Charlee Reed, Meeting Arrangements

Floral Design

The Floral Design Committee has had a busy fall. We started off with a demonstration for the Provisionals at the Sunset Club on November 4th. The intent of the event was to help the Provisionals feel more comfortable and prepared as they put together their “Winter Wonderland” arrangements for the Holiday Luncheon where they would be “lightly” judged. We covered key items to include in your floral design tool kit, how to come up with a design, pick a container, and prep your container and flowers, and create your design. We concluded with what the judges look for in a centerpiece. We had four of our Provisionals attend, and several stayed over for lunch. Many thanks to Jill Crutcher and Barbara Feasey for helping with this



On December 6th Joan Harkins hosted our Provisionals at the wholesale flower market and at the Floral Design Syndicate, allowing them to explore and purchase beautiful flowers and accessories for their arrangements. Please enjoy some of the photos below of their arrangements from our Holiday Luncheon on December 8th, all arrangements can be seen on our website.



On November 16th we had a Pop-up floral design event at the home of Caroline Goedhart. We were thrilled to have Debbie Stockstill join us from Louisiana. Debbie was at the Tacoma Garden Club for a demonstration and agreed to come to Seattle to share her expertise in modern aerial floral design as well as with participating in Garden Club Flower shows.

Debbie is both a GCA Floral Design Judge and Botanical Arts Judge. Floral design education has been her passion since first serving as Vice Chair of Floral Design on the GCA Flower Show Committee in 2015. She was responsible for collecting and putting former printed issues of BY DESIGN magazine on-line, making their educational content available to all GCA members. She served as the Flower Arranging Study Group Workshop Coordinator where she was responsible for one-week intensive floral design workshops where students learned new techniques, mechanics, and designs from international floral designers from Europe and Canada. She has been a Zone Floral Design instructor in her zone as well as speaking to numerous clubs throughout GCA. Debbie recently served as the Zone IX Judging Representative on the GCA Judging Committee and is currently the Area Vice Chairman of Judging for Zones VII, VIII, and IX. Below are some of her beautiful designs.

Caroline Goedhart, Floral Design Chair



Photography

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

THANK YOU to all members who submitted photos for meetings, events, [Holiday Luncheon](#), Jan GCA eNews, [Winter Solstice](#) and [Holiday and Winter Photos](#) Galleries! On Jan 1st, please check out GCA's eNews to see if SGC members photos were featured.

UPCOMING:

Jan 26th - Thurs, 8am PT - 2023 GCA Virtual Photography Conference

[Register Now by selecting here](#)

Once again, this year, all club members are invited to come together from across The Garden Club of America for the 2023 Photography Conference.

The conference will start with Sam Abell, a renowned National Geographic photographer, famously known for his inspirational "Life of a Photograph."

Also on deck, Mary Jo Hoffman, with flat lay photography that is featured in her STILL blog. You will also enjoy Jim Richardson and his virtual storytelling.

"It's how you tell your story that makes the WOW!" Karen McCormick, Editor, Focus

Jan 30th - Monday 10:00 Nisqually Wildlife Refuge Tour with Michele Burton. [Details and Sign up here](#) or contact Kim Bishop. Numbers limited. Zoom photo workshop to follow.

We hope you were able to attend our Nov. 17th, General Meeting Presenting Robert Stahl, "Landscape and Nature Photography: Developing a Poetic Eye" Link to meeting recording is on our [SGC Photography Committee Page](#),



THANK YOU TO OUR SGC MEETING AND EVENT PHOTOGRAPHERS! [Jan 30th Nisqually Trip Details Here](#)

Thank you so much and please consider continuing to help out with photos of speakers, members, floral arrangements, Hort share, engagements, auction trips, etc. by uploading your iPhone or any camera photos to the appropriate gallery on our [SGC Photography Committee](#) page, emailing or texting 206-930-5564, to Kim Bishop at kimbsgphoto@gmail.com.

WINTER WONDERLAND:

Inside or out: [Got photos?](#) [Please submit here](#) Please pass along any ideas for Gallery Tours, Photo Walks, or Education Events to kimbsgcphoto@gmail.com

Along with an eye on your viewfinder, keep an eye on your Photography Committee emails, [SGC Photography Committee Page](#) and [SGC Calendar](#) to keep up with photography related opportunities and our amazing SGC photographers' work! Any questions, please contact Kim Bishop, SGC Photography Chair at kimbsgcphoto@gmail.com or text or call 206-930-5564



Thank you,
Kim Bishop
Photography Committee Chair

*Photo by Suzette de Turenne,
[More photos here](#)*

Awards



2022 SILVER MEDAL AWARDED TO BEVERLY MARTIN

The 2022 Silver Medal was awarded to Beverly Martin at last month's Holiday Luncheon. In receiving the award, Bev was heralded as *"the quiet force behind successful SGC endeavors that make the rest of us so very proud."* In recent years, Bev worked diligently as chair of both the Conservation and Scholarship Committees. Among her many efforts, she organized several field trips that gave Conservation Committee members an opportunity to study the fragile eco-system in our lakes and Sound. As chair of the Scholarship Committee, Bev worked diligently to secure a coveted GCA Hull Award for Ballard High School science teacher, India Carlson. Congratulations, Beverly!



The Seattle Garden will be sending two delegates to the NAL Conference. Look for more details in the February newsletter, including information on how to attend many of the workshops on Zoom.

In Memoriam



Ruben Tree by Sue Ashman

The Seattle Garden Club lost a very special member when Jean Blake English passed away on December 16th, 2022. She was a very involved member of our club and served as President in 1991. Her daughter Julie English is currently a Provisional.

Poetry

"Yule, is when the dark half of the year relinquishes to the light half. Starting the next morning at sunrise, the sun climbs just a little higher and stays a little longer in the sky each day. Known as Solstice Night, or the longest night of the year, much celebration was to be had as the ancestors awaited the rebirth of the Oak King, the Sun King, the Giver of Life that warmed the frozen Earth and made her to bear forth from seeds protected through the fall and winter in her womb. Bonfires were lit in the fields, and crops and trees were "wassailed" with toasts of spiced cider."

submitted by Barbie Snapp

- *Yule Lore*

To the New Year

BY W. S. MERWIN

With what stillness at last
you appear in the valley
your first sunlight reaching down
to touch the tips of a few
high leaves that do not stir
as though they had not noticed
and did not know you at all
then the voice of a dove calls
from far away in itself
to the hush of the morning

so this is the sound of you
here and now whether or not
anyone hears it this is
where we have come with our age
our knowledge such as it is
and our hopes such as they are
invisible before us
untouched and still possible



Sunrise -Submitted by Edie Tenneson