

**The Garden Club of Honolulu  
Floral Design Committee 2020-2021  
Resources**

<b>Resource</b>	<b>Contact</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Annette von Einem	Instagram (IG) <a href="https://annettevoneinem.com/flower-fashion/">https://annettevoneinem.com/flower-fashion/</a>	Danish designer/presenter of GCA and FASG workshops
Arielle Chezar	IG <a href="http://ariellaflowers.com/">http://ariellaflowers.com/</a>	NY Designer/author/presenter
Asa Ige	IG <a href="http://asaflowers.com/">http://asaflowers.com/</a>	Maui designer TGCH presenter
Bart Hassam	IG <a href="https://barthassam.com">https://barthassam.com</a>	2019 World Cup Winner 2021 FDSG presenter
Bunny Williams	bunny's_eye (IG) <a href="https://bunnywilliams.com/">https://bunnywilliams.com/</a>	Renown interior and floral designer/author
<i>ByDesign</i> online publication	<a href="http://www.gcamerica.org">www.gcamerica.org</a>	Published quarterly
<i>Design Lines</i> Newsletters by GCA Zone III Liz Piazza	GCA Zone XII newsletter Karen Flores (FD Rep)	(separate attachments)
GCA website	GCA Conference & Workshops <a href="https://www.gcamerica.org/members/floral-design">https://www.gcamerica.org/members/floral-design</a>	April 8, 2021 Registration: mid-March <a href="https://www.gcamerica.org/members/save-the-date-fdc">https://www.gcamerica.org/members/save-the-date-fdc</a>
Gregor Lersch	IG/IGTV/Vimeo YouTube <a href="https://gregorlersch.de/">https://gregorlersch.de/</a>	Leading German designer/author/workshop presenter
Hawaii Neotropica	<a href="http://www.hawaiiineotropica.com/">http://www.hawaiiineotropica.com/</a> Videos/webinars	Upcoming webinar <a href="https://www.crowdcast.io/e/zu-dc3s27/register?session=1">https://www.crowdcast.io/e/zu-dc3s27/register?session=1</a>
Hitomi Gilliam	IG/IGTV YouTube <a href="https://www.hitomigilliam.com">https://www.hitomigilliam.com</a>	Frequent GCA and TGCH workshop presenter from Canada (AIFD member)
Jane Godshalk	IG <a href="https://janegodshalk.com/">https://janegodshalk.com/</a>	<a href="#">GCA awardee</a> Speaker/presenter TGCH wkshp presenter 2020 (AIFD member)
Klaus Wagener	IG <a href="http://www.klaus-wagener.co">http://www.klaus-wagener.co</a>	German floral designer teacher/author

	<a href="https://www.vita-vita.com/vita-english/">m/vita/vita-english/</a>	
Leopoldo Gomez	IG	<a href="#">2019 World Cup Presenter f/Mexico</a>
Lewis Miller Design	IG <a href="https://lewismillerdesign.com/">https://lewismillerdesign.com/</a>	NY floral/event designer Author
Lois Hiranaga	IG <a href="https://www.loismauiflowers.com/">https://www.loismauiflowers.com/</a>	Maui designer TGCH presenter
Simone Gooch	IG	Sydney/London designer
Tomas De Bruyne	IG <a href="https://www.tomasdebruyne.com/">https://www.tomasdebruyne.com</a>	Floral designer Presenter/author

**Floral Design Committee:** Chairs Dotty Nitta/Paulette Wo, Helena Barahal, Janice Lau Fergus, Susu Markham, Jan Tucker, Kitty Wo

9.21.20



Garden Club of America  
Floral Design Committee  
Zone III Representative M. Liz Piazza  
April, 2020  
Premiere Issue

Since our Floral Design Workshops are on hold while we are socially distancing, I thought I would share with you, our GCA Zone III Garden Club members, the Floral Design Information and Techniques I have learned over the years as a Floral Designer and as a GCA Approved Judge in Floral Design and Photography. In this first issue, April 2020, of **Design Lines**, you will find an insightful philosophical viewpoint, followed by two helpful, if fundamental, solutions. Future issues will include basic design skillsets and resource information along with advanced techniques and sources for those of you who are experienced and already schooled in the fundamentals of Floral Design. Please note, I will credit my sources if available. However, much of my information comes from workshop notes, conversations with mentors, other designers, and from tried and true experimentations. Suggestions, Questions are always welcomed. [lizcsh426@gmail.com](mailto:lizcsh426@gmail.com) or Text at 631 464 5953



Christine de Beer suggests that we should

**“ be mindful of the invisible stuff we add.**

The emotions we are weaving into our designs as we work are felt by the people who view them. ..and the truth is... the more of ourselves we weave into our design work, the better people respond to it.”

### Container Cleaning 101

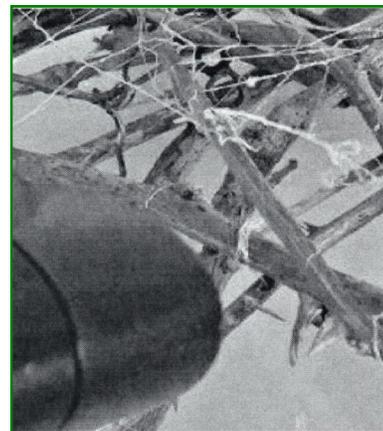
Clean containers are necessary for success. Prior to designing, clean your container with a soap, bleach, water solution. For glass, use a tablet of denture cleaner which will give you a sparkling clean container. Once your design is over, removed plant material, rinse the container, then add water to the water line of the old design and add one tablet of a denture cleaner. This solution is especially rewarding with glass, making the container sparkling clear and ready for your next creation. You can do this prior to designing if the glass container looks foggy/dusty.



### Blow Away Hot Glue Strands

When you use hot glue on your mechanics there are always a few stray strands of glue stuck over the design structure. You can rid your mechanics of these wisps of glue by using a hair dryer. Set the hair dryer on the warmest setting. Because the strands are so thin they won't need a lot of time to melt away. DO NOT focus the heat on any one section for long periods of time since you will weaken the glue holding the structure or anchor in place. Simply heat until the strands melt away. Please do not use this technique AFTER you have

placed your fresh plant material into your design. However, it can be used on dried plant material while creating Botanical Arts, as long as you are careful not to have the blown air speed too high.





Garden Club of America  
Floral Design Committee  
Zone III Representative M. Liz Piazza  
May, 2020  
Issue Two

Zone III Garden Club members: Since our Floral Design Workshops are on hold while we are socially distancing, I thought I would share the Floral Design Information and Techniques I have learned over the years as a Floral Designer and as a GCA Approved Floral Design and Photography Judge. In this second issue of **Design Lines** you will find designer thoughts, insights and valuable lessons learned acknowledgements are made when source is available. Your Suggestions, Insights, Questions are most welcomed. Please feel free to contact me at [lizcsh426@gmail.com](mailto:lizcsh426@gmail.com) or **TEXT** me at 631 464 5853.

### How Do I Get A Water Source into Awkward Places ?

Glue your test tubes directly into/onto your mechanics whether it is made up of wire, twig, chicken wire or other materials. Fill the water tubes with a syringe filled with conditioned water (bottled water and flower preservative/food). You will top off the water in the test tube after you have placed all of your plant material.



**What if I don't know exactly where all my plant material is going to go?** I often use a UGLU tab (a two-sided adhesive tab that can be cut or used as is) on my unfilled water tubes. I place them as I design. Once I have completed my design, I then go back and fill each water tube with conditioned water to enhance the life of the fresh plant material. Conditioned water is made up of bottled water and flower food/preservative. The photo below showing the syringe and test tube (water tube) is from Christine de Beer's "the effortless floral craftsman."





Garden Club of America  
Floral Design Committee  
Zone III Representative M. Liz Piazza  
June, 2020  
Issue Three

### General Care and Conditioning for Floral Design Plant Materials

In the words of Zone III legend, Joanne Lenden, GCA Emeritus Judge, "When guests are due to arrive, 'fixing flowers' is more important than dusting. If guests are staying for dinner, the centerpiece is at least as important as the menu."

**Conditioning** is the process of preparing cut flowers in order to prolong their longevity in designs, ensuring a fresh look. Condition the cut stems using these five steps:

1. Strip all the leaves from the bottom half to two-thirds of each stem. As a general rule any foliage below the water level should be removed to prevent decay.
2. For best results, re-cut all stems. Use a **sharp** knife or clippers to avoid crushing the stems and reducing their ability to take up water and nutrients.
3. Cut the stems to length with a clean, **long angled cut** without leaving jagged edges that could lead to decay.
4. Place each prepared stem immediately into a bucket of clean water that contains flower preservative such as *Crystal Clear*. Leave the filled bucket in a cool place for at least two to three hours or, ideally, overnight. This will allow the flowers to become fully hydrated before being brought into a warmer environment and handled during designing.
5. Some plants with soft stems and heavy flower heads, such as tulips and gerberas, are prone to bending and will remain in this position. To straighten the stems, wrap the flower bunch in newspaper and stand them deeply in water for at least two hours - ideally over night.



#### Part I Special Conditioning Needs:

**Daffodils (Narcissus)** should be conditioned separately since their sap is toxic to most other flowers (Iris is an exception). Add special *Daffodil Flower Food* to the water so that the toxic sap is dissipated before adding the daffodils to a mixed design.



**Tropical Flowers** bloom in warmer climates or seasons and prefer warmer water while hydrating.

**Cool Weather Flowers** can be hydrated in cooler water. They will open faster in warmer water.

**Hydrangeas** Dip freshly cut stem in Alum Powder before placing in water. Well conditioned hydrangeas will, sometimes, wilt prematurely. Place the entire flower head in a water bath, and let it rest for a few hours. Give the stem a fresh cut, dip in the Alum Powder and place in water in your design.

#### Part II Special Conditioning Needs in July 2020, Issue 4



Garden Club of America  
 Floral Design Committee  
 Zone III Representative  
 M. Liz Piazza  
 July, 2020  
 Issue Four

**Part II Special Conditioning Needs - Continued.** Drawn from The Philadelphia Committee of the Garden Club of America, Christine de Beers and Bliss Clark, Emeritus Judge Floral Design, Garden Club of Michigan, Garden Club of America Affiliate.



**Semi Woody (Chrysanthemum) and Woody flower stems (Roses)** It is often suggested that these stem should have an additional vertical cut through the base of the stem to a length of about 2 inches. Hammering the bottom of woody stems is often suggested, however, this may increase the rate of bacterial infection and is not usually necessary. Leaving some foliage on the stem above the waterline will help draw moisture up to the flower head and can be removed as you use each stem in your design. Warm weather flowers, such as roses, that have been refrigerated respond well to warm water. This allows the cold vascular system to warm up and take up water more easily.



**Stems Prone to Drooping** Poppy, Euphorbia and Hellebores can be sealed by filling the bottom 1 inch of the stems into hot water (almost boiling) for 20 - 30 seconds always protect the flower head from the steam and wear gloves when handling Euphorbia to protect skin from its irritant milky sap.



**Hollow Stems** - Delphinium, Amaryllis, Lupins, Equisetum, Zantedeschia (Calla Lily) can be conditioned by filling the stem with water. Turn the stem upside down, fill with conditioned water, plug the stem with a wet cotton ball and tie a rubber band around the base to keep the plug in place and prevent the stem from splitting. These hollow stem flowers/plant material do not like to be placed in deep water while waiting to be used in your design. A few inches of conditioned water is more than enough for them.



**Tulips** - Cut the stem at an angle just above the white area at the end of the stem. This white area prevents the stem from losing moisture during travel; it also prevents the flower from taking up moisture.



**Carnations** - Cut carnation stems just above the node. This ensures that the slower stem can still take up water.

**Bamboo** - Cut bamboo stems just above or well below a node, thus enabling water take up.



Please feel free to contact me with suggestions, questions or ideas for future issues. This is your Zone III Floral Design Exchange.  
 Email: [lizcsh426@gmail.com](mailto:lizcsh426@gmail.com) or text at 631 464 5853



Garden Club of America  
Floral Design Committee  
Zone III Representative  
M. Liz Piazza  
August, 2020  
Issue Five

This issue is devoted to some of the many offerings you will find in subject specific magazines, books, on YouTube, and on dedicated websites from some of our most talented, finest, internationally recognized designers, mentors and teachers of floral design. Photos of designs printed in “*Design Lines*” are, **more often than not**, taken from Garden Club of America Flower Shows, GCA Floral Design Study Group Workshops, GCA Floral Design Club Demonstrations and GCA Zone Garden Club activities; all of which represent GCA Affiliated Garden Clubs, Zone I through Zone XII, floral designers. However, this issue, along with the September and October issues will highlight designs created from the resources covered in order to give you a glimpse of the vast variety and depth in floral design throughout the world. As always, your suggestions, questions and/or requests are welcome, please contact me at [lizcsh42@gmail.com](mailto:lizcsh42@gmail.com) or text at 631 464 5853.

Google It, Click It, Search It

Part One of Three

**Hitomi Gilliam**, *Creative Edge with Hitomi* - <https://www.hitomigilliam.com/creativeedge/august2020>.

[http://www.fb.com/Hitomi Gilliam AIFD](http://www.fb.com/HitomiGilliamAIFD) A monthly 4 - 6 minute video on a specific technique. For a wonderful gallery of Hitomi 's incredible designs goggle: [hitomigilliamart](https://www.instagram.com/hitomigilliamart) to see why she has such a devoted following. Free

**Willow Crossley**, <https://www.createacademy.com> A 14 minute video on creating “A Summer Tablescape.” Free

**Ofad.design/** The Organization of Floral Art Designers , based in San Francisco, may be viewed on Pinterest. A free newsletter will come directly to your email inbox if you sign up on their website. Scroll down after membership information (which you may ignore) and you will find the sign up box for the free newsletter. Once on the website, click on Previous Seminars and click on one of the offering dates. Once there, you will see a photo gallery of that year's seminar designs (e.g. 2019 Seminar Gallery OFAD). You may also wish to view the Program and Workshop options what were held during that particular seminar year. Click on the first photo in any of the three categories—Seminar Gallery, Program, or Workshop and the entire folder will open to larger and more defined photographs. Here's an opportunity to engage in personal visual training as you look for the various elements and principles of design that create either a strong impactful design or one that leaves you wanting more/less/different. Do you know why?



**Flower Magazine**, [flowermag.com](http://flowermag.com) An on line free edition with interesting stories and floral design information for the beginner and intermediate designer. Beautifully photographed floral designs and a peek into the areas covered in the issues by subscription.

**Fleur Creatif Magazine** is a European published magazine dedicated to all that is Floral Design, from the very sophisticated to holiday/family home floral decor. Rather than engaging in the expensive subscription, search **Fleur Creatif** on Facebook. It is a visual treat with some timely creations to do with youngsters during our social distancing situations. Free