

2019 CAR-SGC Conference Speaker & Workshop Leader Bios

As of 5/24/2019

Luncheon Speaker: Karen Cantor – “Return”



Karen Cantor’s career has focused on the visual arts and social issues. She received a BA cum laude from Goucher College, majoring in anthropology and minoring in fine arts and two decades later received an MBA from Wake Forest University. Her first career was as an industrial and artistic photographer. She then served as a marketing director and consultant for high-tech firms, simultaneously teaching photography and entrepreneurship on the college level, first at Elon College and then American University. When Karen became a grandmother, she realized “if not now, when?” and set about to learn as much as she could about filmmaking. Her eclectic experiences have each made significant contributions to her resultant documentary films: *The Danish Solution* (2003), *Last Rights* (2009), *Invitation to the Muse* (2011), and *Return* (2018). To learn more, please visit www.SingingWolfDocs.org.

“RETURN: Native American Women Reclaim Foodways for Health and Spirit” is a 28-minute documentary featuring charismatic Roxanne Swentzell from Santa Clara Pueblo in New Mexico. Her efforts to reclaim ancient foodways are echoed across the continent by Tlingit, Muckleshoot, Oglala Sioux, Menominee, and Seneca women. At its heart this film is about empowering people to overcome their current circumstances through eating as their ancestors did - nutritiously and locally. RETURN offers an approach to confronting the diabetes epidemic now rampant in Native American communities.

Dinner Speaker: Rick Davis, Owner, Amaryllis Floral & Event Design



Rick Davis has been with Amaryllis Floral & Event Design from the very beginning, and became the owner in 2002. With his award-winning style and exceptional skill, Rick guided its transformation into one of the country's foremost special event companies. Rick is known for sophisticated elegance, unique use of products and innovative concepts.

He works closely with each client to ensure that expectations are exceeded, and always adds extra touches to make the occasion be perfection. In his spare time, Rick is an avid gardener who loves life on his farm in Southern Maryland. When he and his partner are not creating fabulous events, they escape to their farm where they reside with a menagerie of dogs, animals and birds. They raise ever-expanding flocks of exotic fowl, conserve some of the rarest bloodlines of heritage farm animals and proudly tend to their abundant vegetable and flower gardens. Many of the specialty flowers used in events are lovingly grown and harvested by the two of them.

Arabella Dane: Results of Photo Contest Workshop, Photo Contest to be announced



Arabella is a former board chair of the American Horticultural Society, and past president of the Garden Club Federation of MA, Inc. She has served as National Garden Clubs, Inc. Corr. Secretary; Vice Chairman of the NGC Nominating Committee; and as National Butterfly Chairman. An NGC Master Judge and Master Landscape Design Consultant, she currently serves on the NGC Flower Show Committee as a Flower Show School Accrediting Chairman.

Arabella is an accredited photography judge for the Photography Society of America and is the PSA Membership Chairman for NH. Her photographs have won numerous awards in local, regional, national and international competitions. One of her images is on display in Barcelona Spain and some of her work is currently featured on the North American Nature Photography Association NANPA web site <http://www.nanpa.org/portfolio/arabella-dane-2019/> .

She has created, and copyright protected www.plantipedia.com, a comprehensive on-line horticulture database of approximately 120,000 plants used by America's gardeners and conservationists. Plantipedia correlates the butterflies of North America with their plant preferences and includes many images, of plants and of butterflies, pollinator data, and plant society coding as well as information regarding the status of our native and invasive plants.

Arabella has lectured, exhibited, demonstrated, judged and taught horticulture, photography and flower arranging across the USA and abroad. She has received numerous awards for her work and is a Garden Club of America judge emeritus in Design, Horticulture and Photography.

Holly Shimizu: Unusual Uses for Herbs Workshop



Holly H. Shimizu is a nationally recognized horticulturist, consultant, and educator. With a rich background in all aspects of public gardens, and a proven commitment to plant conservation and sustainability, she has been making plants and gardens more accessible and exciting to both professionals and amateurs for more than four decades.

In her career, Holly has tended and managed public gardens around the world and served as the Executive Director of the U.S. Botanic Garden for more than 14 years. In 2015, she was recognized as one of the public horticulture industry's most influential, inspirational, and pioneering individuals with The American Public Gardens Association (APGA)'s Honorary Life Member Award. Holly was instrumental in developing the Sustainable Sites Initiative (SITES) which provides professional standards for sustainability in landscape design and maintenance, and its residential counterpart, Landscapes for Life. She was a host of the popular Victory Garden show on PBS Garden for ten years and continues to lecture on a variety of topics and leads garden tours and workshops. Holly has written for numerous publications, books, and magazines, and serves on several advisory councils. She has received a number of horticultural awards from Universities, Garden associations and Honor Societies. Also, she serves as a Director on a number of Boards across our country, from Portland, Oregon to Longwood Gardens in Delaware. Her degree at Penn State was a BS in Horticulture and she received an MS from the University of Maryland.

Patsie Uchello: Painting Plants Workshop



Patricia Miller Uchello, known as Patsie, was formally educated in fine art at Tulane University and Pratt Institute. You may have seen favorable reviews of her oil paintings in the Washington Post and the Loudouni.com, and her work was featured in an article in élan magazine. Patsie's pen and ink drawings were chapter heading illustrations in Seaport Savories and her oil paintings are featured in a new cookbook, Restaurant Recipes.

Her work has been collected by many businesses and she has exhibited across the Metropolitan Washington, DC area in private galleries and a number of businesses. She also has exhibited many times at non-profits including Green Spring Garden, NIH, and River Farm, home to the American Horticultural Society, where Patsie's work was most recently exhibited through April of this year.

We are pleased to have Patsie, who is not only a Garden Club member, but also is currently Recording Secretary for NCAGC!

Patsie will be teaching/helping us to create a painting of a gorgeous plant using acrylic paint on canvas. The lesson also includes color theory, which will help you with your designs and landscapes. All materials will be provided. Please bring an old apron!