

April 2012 E-Newsletter

Debbie Herzfeld: Giving Back

By Arlene Silverman

"I've always believed in giving back to the community," says real estate agent Debbie Herzfeld. For Debbie, giving back means becoming a contributing member of the Hidden Garden Steps' organizing committee. "[The project] is such a cool thing. It brings neighbors together, it improves the neighborhood, and it's great for the city."

Debbie has a lot of cool things in her own background. Voted best real estate agent in San Francisco during a career that has continued for almost 30 years, she is a Certified Residential Specialist (CRS) and a Seniors Real Estate Specialist (SRES), with specialized education and training that prepares her to work with older people that may want to relocate. While she handles property all over the city, she says that she has "sold more properties in the Golden Gate Heights neighborhood than any other agent." It's a safe bet, then, that the Steps project will continue to be a perfect fit for Debbie.

"She is a great addition to the committee—not only because of the extensive contacts that she's developed, but also because of her obvious

enthusiasm," Steps organizing committee co-chair Paul Signorelli notes.

Furthermore, Debbie is a fourth-generation San Franciscan whose family came here in the late 1800s—which makes her two children, who are in their 20s, fifth generation San Franciscans: "Once you've lived here, it's hard to find anywhere else in the world like it," she says.



Hidden Garden Steps organizing committee member
Debbie Herzfeld

She also has one ancestor who was the proprietor of a speakeasy in San Francisco's South Park neighborhood, and another—a great-uncle named Nat Schmulowitz—who successfully defended Fatty Arbuckle in his notorious 1920s-era trial for the alleged murder of a young starlet in a room at the St. Francis Hotel.

Nat's interests included collecting humor—something fans of the Schmulowitz Collection of Wit & Humor (SCOWAH) in the San Francisco Public Library appreciate since what he and his sister, Kay, left behind forms the core of one of the largest collections of its kind.

N.B.: The annual exhibition of selections from that collection opened, as required under the terms of the donation, on April Fool's Day this month and continues through the end of May in San Francisco's Main Library, in Civic Center.

Debbie can be reached at 415.338.0118 or through her website: <http://SoldOnSF.com>.

Calendar:

- **April 7, 10-11:30 a.m.**
Monthly organizing committee meeting; follow live on Twitter @gardensteps
- **April 12, 7:30 p.m.**
Green Hairstreak Butterfly and Hidden Garden Steps presentation at Randall Museum, 199 Museum Way, San Francisco
- **April 14, 1-3 p.m.**
Garden clean-up on the Steps
- **April 15, 9 a.m.—1 p.m.**
Hidden Garden Steps at Inner Sunset Farmers' Market (parking lot near 9th Avenue & Irving Street)

Recent Work by Colette Crutcher on Display

Colette Crutcher, who designed the Hidden Garden Steps and Moraga Steps mosaics with Aileen Barr, will have recent work on display at the Inclusion Gallery in Bernal Heights starting in mid-April.

"Stairways, Doors, and Windows: Recent Works by Colette Crutcher," which opens at the gallery at 627 Cortland Avenue here in San Francisco, on Saturday, April 14 with a reception from 6 – 8 p.m., will remain on display through May 13. Normal gallery hours are noon – 7 p.m. Wednesday – Saturday, and noon – 6 pm on Sundays. There is also an onsite artist discussion scheduled for Thursday, April 19 from 7 – 8 p.m. at the gallery.

Steps & Butterflies at Randall Museum

Steps and butterflies come together this month at the Randall Museum when Nature in the City Green Hairstreak [Butterfly] Corridor lepidopterist Liam O'Brien and Hidden Garden Steps organizing committee co-chair Paul Signorelli discuss the two organizations' collaboration in San Francisco's Inner Sunset District.



Lepidopterist and illustrator Liam O'Brien

Appearing under the auspices of the San Francisco Naturalist Society on Thursday, April 12, beginning at 7:30 p.m. in the Randall Museum at 199 Museum Way in San Francisco, Liam will talk about how Nature in the City's volunteer-driven project has worked to successfully restore habitats for the once-prevalent butterfly in one of its last remaining San Francisco breeding grounds. Paul will join Liam to talk about how volunteers from both organizations have worked together so Green Hairstreak butterflies will find an extension of that habitat to the area at the top of the Hidden Garden Steps, where 16th Avenue exists as a stairway between Kirkham and Lawton streets.

“The relationship between the two projects has been fantastic for all of us,” Paul said recently. “This extends Nature in the City's project slightly farther to the north than had originally been planned and creates a potential bridge for the butterfly between the existing sites on the hills and projected sites in Golden Gate Park. And for the Hidden Garden Steps project, this team-up has brought new partners and a windfall of donations of California native plants from our colleagues at Nature in the City—nearly \$1,000 worth of plants already.”



Illustration of Green Hairstreak butterfly,

Those interested in learning more about Nature in the City's project will find plenty at <http://natureinthecity.org/gh.php#map2>. Information about the Randall Museum event is online at <http://www.randallmuseum.org/SanFranciscoNaturalistSociety.aspx>. And those looking for more information about donating native California plants to the Hidden Garden Steps project will find a wish list on the Hidden Garden Steps website through the following shortcut: <http://tinyurl.com/7sza7aq>.



Join us at the Inner Sunset Farmers' Market on Sunday, April 15, from 9 a.m.—1 p.m., near 9th Avenue & Judah Street.

Hidden Garden Steps Online

By Paul Signorelli

The fact that our supporters extend far beyond the informal borders of San Francisco's Inner Sunset district where the Hidden Garden Steps project is underway is no coincidence: we have attracted donors from seven states outside of California, and continue to attract more through Facebook, Twitter (@gardensteps), LinkedIn, a YouTube channel, blog postings, and, of course, our website (<http://hiddengardensteps.org>)—which provides direct links to our social media sites.

Project organizing committee members recently gave our Facebook presence a major upgrade by creating a new page for Hidden Garden Steps. If you would like to support us, please visit that page, express support for the project there, and share it with your colleagues in our ever-extending community of supporters across the country. And let's see how far we can take the project around the world via Facebook, Twitter, and other online doorways to our site.

Thank you

for helping to transform our community one step at a time.

To donate and/or volunteer,
please visit <http://hiddengardensteps.com>.

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