



# MASTER FLORISTS NEWS

June 2017

## Memorial Day Flowers

Mountain View Cemetery held its Memorial Day service on Monday, May 29<sup>th</sup>. Over 3,000 roses were handed out to those in attendance, in memory of those who gave the ultimate sacrifice in service to protect the freedoms that we enjoy today. Our thanks to the vendors at the San Francisco Flower Mart: Brannan Street Wholesale Florist, Mt. Eden Floral Company, Brothers Wholesale, Torchio Nursery, Neve Brothers Roses, North Bay Wholesale, Rafael Wholesale, Repetto Nursery, and Blossom Valley Nursery. Our heartfelt thanks for their support! Thank you to Mountain View Cemetery for letting us participate in this annual event. Photos of this event can be viewed on our Facebook page

## 8th Annual Monterey Area Greenhouse Open House

On June 17<sup>th</sup>, flower and plant growers in the Monterey area will have their annual open house. California Pajarosa, Four Winds Nursery, Kitayama Brothers Nursery, Succulent Gardens, and Suncrest Nursery are some of those participating. This is your chance to visit, and see up close and personal how the products you use every day are grown and cared for.

## Calflowers Fun 'N Sun

The 75th Annual Convention is being held August 9-12 at the Park Hyatt Aviara Resort in Carlsbad. With four days devoted to California flowers and the floral industry, it is the largest all-California floral display and floral exhibit available in one location.

There will be growers tours, industry educational sessions, and a golf tournament.

Visit some of California's leading flower farms, make new friends, meet old friends, and learn about merging trends in the industry.

For more information or to register, call the Cal Flowers office, 831-479-4912.

## Cooperative Center Federal Credit Union

For many years now, MFA has had a business relationship with this credit union. Our contact is Debbie Crowson, 510-845-6428. She is there to answer your questions and to help you with all your financial needs. When you become a member of the credit union, you have a voice; you are not just a number. Unhappy with your bank? Give Debbie a call and find out what she can do for you.

## In Memoriam

**Dean Hansen**, retired florist from Dean's Floral in Turlock, passed away.

## Albert Nalbandian

Albert was honored at our 50th Anniversary Celebration back on October 18th, 2003. Anyone visiting San Francisco will surely have walked past Al Nalbandian at his flower stand on the Macy's corner of Stockton and Geary Streets. He had been a generous and warm presence there for over 75 years, sharing his love of flowers, people and bustling urban life.

Gentle in disposition, tender of heart, his personality earned him many friends in the floral industry, and his flower stand has become a San Francisco landmark. His personality also earned him a second career as an actor, having been featured in a number of television shows (Streets of San Francisco), motion pictures (American Graffiti), and commercials.

His family has been in the flower business since 1915. His father started what is now the oldest flower stand in the city at Powell and Market Streets. He grew up helping his father at that stand until the opening at the Stockton and Geary location after

graduating in 1943 from the University of San Francisco.

Nalbandian was also an art collector, with the largest acquisition in the United States of prints by the Armenian-French artist Edgar Chaline. His collection has been shown at the Legion of Honor and is worth in excess of \$3 million.

In recognition of his contributions to the flower industry, MFA was proud to honor then 82-year young Al Nalbandian, who until his recent passing, enjoyed working outdoors six days a week at his beloved flower stand, meeting and greeting both the famous and the ordinary people of this city by the bay.

Rest in Peace Al.

### **California Flower Day at Cal Expo**

July 16, 2017 has been designated California Flower Day at Cal Expo. Save the date and come up to Sacramento to see and enjoy the festivities! There will be a full flowers display, design competitions, and cooking with flower demonstrations.

### **Top Ten Design Competition**

This year's event will be held on November 4-5. This will be a weekend of educational workshops, competition, and a design show. The location will be announced later. The winner of Top Ten will be sponsored by CSFA at the Sylvia Cup Competition during the SAF Annual convention this year at the Breakers in Florida.

*"It's kind of fun to do the impossible."* -- Walt Disney

Together, we can make a difference.

**Wilton Lee, CCF**  
**Editor, MFA Newsletter**

---

### **Support Our Wholesale Members**

**Blossom Valley**  
**Brannan Street Wholesale Florist**  
**Figone Nursery**  
**Gatti Nursery**  
**Gemignani Nursery**  
**Kitayama Bros., Inc.**  
**Lion Ribbon Company**

**Mt. Eden Floral Company**  
**John Nuckton Company**  
**Santa Rosa Wholesale Florist**  
**Torchio Nursery Company**