



Executive Director's Corner



Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for your generous support of our end of the year fundraising campaign! With your help, we met our goal!

The Great Blue Herons are back at Stow Lake!!! Two nests are occupied - one nest in the dead tree and one in the healthy tree behind it.

In the New Year, we are rolling out these programs:

[Birding for Families](#)

[Birding for Adults](#)

[Heron Watch](#)

[Youth Internship Program](#) (4th grade through High School)

Our next field trips are set for Chain of Lakes and SF Botanical Garden. Please sign up ahead of time for all trips. Heron Watch begins on April 13th for six Saturdays.

Applications for our premier Youth Internship program are available online under [Get Involved](#). The deadline for applying is Feb. 24, 2024.

Finally, I am giving a series of [free lectures/slide shows on Jan. 20 and Feb. 3 at 2pm](#) on the story of the Cliff House Totem Pole carved by Squamish First Nations Hereditary Chief Mathias Joe of North Vancouver, Canada in 1948.

Please join us.

Best Regards,

Nancy H. DeStefanis
Executive Director

[Become a Member | Donate Online](#)

Donate online or mail a check to: SFNE,
PO Box 210303, SF CA 94121 www.sfnature.org

Tax ID no.: 54-2111941. Membership: Adults, \$35;
Seniors 65+, \$30. Joint Membership for two seniors
at same residence \$50; students 21 or under, \$25.
Email: info@sfnature.org tel.: 415-205-0776



Helene Sobol

Great Blue Herons arrive at Stow Lake on Jan. 8, 2024



David Sullivan

Supervisor Connie Chan honors Nancy DeStefanis with a Certificate of Honor, signed by the Board of Supervisors, for 23 years of introducing children and adults to the birds of San Francisco.

IN THIS ISSUE

- Supervisor Connie Chan honors Sabrina Chan & Nancy DeStefanis
- IN MEMORIAM - CLAIRE HUNTER
- Upcoming Lectures by Nancy DeStefanis

Supervisor Connie Chan honors Sabrina Chin for her photo exhibit on the Birds of San Francisco!



Supervisor Connie Chan (District 1) honored Sabrina Chin, 3 year intern for SFNE for her photo exhibit at City Hall on Sept. 27, 2023. Sabrina's photos of local birds filled the room. Supervisor Chan presented her with a Certificate of Honor. Sabrina, accompanied by her parents and extended family, was thrilled.

Supervisor Chan also honored Nancy DeStefanis for her 21 years of service in educating children and families about the local birds of San Francisco and particularly the Great Blue Herons!



from left: Grandfather Donald Chin, Mother Fay Li, Sabrina Chin, Father Carey Chin

In Memoriam



Claire Hunter - SFNE Volunteer (1957 - 2023)

Claire was a longtime volunteer for our Heron Watch, 3rd grade field trips and Birding for Families programs. Born in Scotland, she raised her family in San Francisco - Andrew Chow (Rachel Way & baby Vesper), Sophie Chow (Kevin & baby Niya) and Isabelle Chow (Ian) - also a long time volunteer. Her children and grandchildren were regular visitors to the Heron Watch program. Along with her Scottish husband Gary, she participated in many Scottish Country dances.

Claire was wonderful with 3rd graders and SFNE interns.

She will be missed.

Nancy DeStefanis-Executive Director

Upcoming Field Trips:

Birding for Adults & Families:
Feb. 10 - Chain of Lakes
March 9 - SF Botanical Garden

Please sign up two days before and prepay.

Members -free- please sign up two days before.

Rain always cancels.

<https://www.sfnature.org/>

Photo courtesy SFNE

from left: Rachel Way, Andrew Chow, Vesper & Claire Hunter, seated Nancy DeStefanis

**THE EXCITING STORY BEHIND THE CLIFF HOUSE'S CEDAR TOTEM POLE
FREE LECTURE & SLIDESHOW**

SATURDAY, JANUARY 20, 2024 @ 2:00PM



Courtesy of Kenneth Stampfer

Nancy DeStefanis presents the fascinating history of the cedar Totem Pole. In 1947, George Whitney, the founder of Playland by the Sea, commissioned the Totem Pole, and Chief Mathias Joe, master carver and hereditary Chief of the Squamish First Nation in British Columbia, created it.

Ms. DeStefanis has been studying First Nations History and art in British Columbia. She is the Executive Director of the San Francisco Nature Education.

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Chief Joe Capilano

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Chief Joe Capilano