

Workshop Details

OUR ETHOS

Working with flowers is a beautiful form of art that has calming, meditative and healthful effects for those who design with natural materials. Floral designs bring nature, happiness, serenity and beauty into our living spaces. Hence, we find Peace in Nature, or *Pax in Natura* in Latin. Yet, modern floral design mechanics can be harmful to ourselves and the environment in which we live.

My historical research into ancient floral design has helped me rediscover ways to create sustainable designs, using mechanics based on ancient techniques that are free from floral foam, glues, and plastics. I try to incorporate locally grown, seasonal flowers, and foraged greenery into my designs as much as possible, with the intention of lowering the carbon footprint caused by imported flowers. Aside from the environmental and health benefits of these practices, they have another advantage, reducing the cost of floral creations.

My signature designs are recreations of Greco-Roman floral crowns, wreaths, and leis. I also use ancient images of flowers and gardens as inspiration for my more conventional bouquets and centerpieces. In these, I incorporate historical elements: greenery, flowers and/or design shapes popular in different places and eras.

To share my designs, I offer a range of workshops for in-person gatherings teaching basic "ancient" design mechanics that promote sustainable floral skills. My classes are friendly and fun as well as calming and meditative. I encourage participants to see the beauty and peace in nature while working with natural materials.

Dr. Patricia "Patty" Baker

Floral Design Workshop Menu

GRECO-ROMAN CROWN

The Romans wore crowns for a variety of occasions: victories, awards, parties, weddings, and even as cures for headaches. In this class, we recreate their handwoven crowns. They are exquisite for weddings, music festivals, home-coming events, proms, and bridal showers.

Materials

Raffia for base and ties

Greenery Suggestions

Olive, Oak, Laurel, Myrtle, Ivy, Eucalyptus, Pine, Rosemary, Thyme, Marjoram & Oregano

Flower Suggestions

Roses, Violets, Amaranthus, Queen Anne's Lace, Baby's Breath, Lavender, Daisies, Mums & Lisianthus

Time

Two-hour session

Cost

From \$60.00 + per person



Floral Design Workshop Menu

HAND-TIED BOUQUETS

Whether structured, round, bohemian or airy, the classic handtied bouquet has many beautiful uses: gifts, bridal bouquets, prom flowers and vase fillers. It is a simple technique to learn and, once mastered, can be used to create designs in various sizes and shapes.

Materials

Raffia, Ribbon

Greenery Suggestions

Olive, Myrtle, Ivy, Eucalyptus, Pine & Fern

Floral Suggestions

Roses, Amaranth, Queen Anne's Lace, Baby's Breath, Hydrangea, Dianthus, Lavender, Gerber
Daisies, Daisies, Mums & Lisianthus

Time

Two-hour session

Cost

From \$60.00 + per person



Floral Design Workshop Menu

REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE

In this workshop, participants are encouraged to bring their own container found in their homes, thrift shops, and offices to help reduce waste through creative reuse of materials. These designs will tend to be diminutive, sweet and rustic in appearance, but can be designed to accentuate the style of container.

Materials

Participants provide their container. They should have a circular or square opening from 4"-6". Check for water tightness.

Greenery Suggestions

Olive, Oak, Laurel, Myrtle, Ivy, Eucalyptus, Pine, Rosemary, Thyme, Marjoram & Oregan

Floral Suggestions

Roses, Amaranth, Queen Anne's Lace, Baby's Breath, Hydrangea, Dianthus, Lavender, Gerber Daisies, Daisies, Mums & Lisianthus

Time

Two-hour session

Cost

From \$40.00 + per person



Floral Design Workshop Menu

LEIS

Yes, even the ancient Romans made leis. Ancient writers tell us these were sewn, much like some Hawaiian leis are today. In this workshop, we sew leis. They are wonderful for graduations, birthdays and make unique wedding party gifts.

Materials

Thread and needle

Floral Suggestions

Wild Roses, Carnations & Mums

Time

Two-hour session

Cost

From \$40.00 + per person



Floral Design Workshop Menu

GRECO-ROMAN WREATHS

Wreaths were created in the ancient world for a wide range of celebrations. In this workshop, we recreate ancient wreaths using vine or willow bases.

Materials

Wreath base and raffia

Greenery Suggestions

Olive, Oak, Laurel, Myrtle, Ivy, Eucalyptus, Pine, Rosemary, Thyme, Marjoram & Oregano

Decorative Additions

Pinecones, Seed Pods, Thistle, Dried-Fruit, Dried Flowers, Lavender & Wheat

Time

Two to Three hour session

Cost

From \$70.00 + per person



Floral Design Workshop Menu

ROUND CENTERPIECE

This is a classic low design intended to be viewed from all sides. They make great centerpieces, side-table decorations, and in smaller sizes, can be used to decorate bedside tables and desks, for example. In this class, participants have a choice of bubble or cylindrical vases, ranging in size from 4 to 6 inches.

Materials

Vase

Greenery Suggestions

Olive, Oak, Laurel, Myrtle, Ivy, Eucalyptus, Pine, Rosemary, Thyme, Marjoram & Oregano

Floral Suggestions

Roses, Amaranth, Queen Anne's Lace, Baby's Breath, Hydrangea, Dianthus, Lavender, Gerber Daisies, Daisies, Mums & Lisianthus

Time

Two-hour session

Cost

From \$60.00 + per person



Workshop Details

WHERE AND HOW WE WORK

I travel to locations within the San Francisco Bay Area From San Francisco to Santa Cruz on the West Bay and from Berkeley to Gilroy on the East Bay. I travel further afield at a higher cost.

I teach up to 15 people per event. Accommodations can be made for groups over this size, but 15 or fewer participants is an ideal size.

I work closely with you to determine color schemes and types of flowers you wish to use in your designs. Due to the nature of flower markets, last minute changes might be necessary, and I will keep you informed at all stages of the process.

Payment

Half of the agreed cost is due one week after the agreement is signed.

The remaining payment is due 48 hours before the session.

Full refunds are available for any cancellations prior to 48 hours before the scheduled event. Cancellations made after this will be reimbursed, minus the cost of the flowers and greenery.

What You Get with Each Class

A two-hour session at a location of your choice. It is the customer's responsibility to ensure safety and access requirements for the location of the event.

Materials provided in the cost: containers, flowers, greenery, ribbons, and other decorative elements. These are yours to keep.

Floral scissors will be provided for use on the day, but I encourage participants to bring their own, if they have them.

Hands-on advice and award-winning teaching

A choice of one of my signature classes. If you would like something, please discuss your ideas with me. I am always happy to try something new.