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***Floral Fling, Art & Flower Festival Coming Up***

By PJ Bremier

The Marin Charitable Association has scored celebrity florist Jun Piñon as guest speaker for its annual Floral Fling, on April 21 at the Meadow Club in Fairfax.

“This delightful event is a longtime favorite of local gardeners and flower arrangers,” says Board Member Anamaria Alcocer. The day combines shopping at the event’s Garden Path vendors with lunch and a talk and demonstration by floral expert Jun Piñon.

Born in the Philippines, Piñon moved here in 1980 and attended the Rudolph Schaeffer School of Design. In the mid-90s, when he was working for the Halekulani Hotel in Hawaii, a Macy’s executive discovered him and brought him back for a special event.

Since then, he’s amassed a client list that reads like a Who’s Who of corporate America – AOL, ABC, Merrill Lynch, Oracle, Lufthansa, Nordstrom, Saks Fifth Avenue, Estée Lauder, Lalique, House Beautiful and Architectural Digest. He is in-house designer for the Four Seasons Hotel, Compton Place, and the Ritz Carlton. Then there’s Oprah Winfrey and Sharon Stone, the San Francisco Opera, San Francisco Symphony and the Chronicle that he counts among his patrons.

In an interview with *Northern California Home and Design* magazine a few years ago, he was quoted as saying that he uses fruits in his lush arrangements because the “texture gives the bouquet a lovely twist. Artichokes can also add interest to a design and even serve as wonderful votive candle holders,” he added.

So, what’s he using these days? It could be anything, because Piñon likes to push the envelope. “It’s all about growth and changes,” he says. “I’m always looking for ways to tap into playful new experiments. That’s central to the creative experience.”

The audience will see the results at the Floral Fling, to be held Wednesday, April 21, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Meadow Club. For more information, call (415) 297-6540, or visit [www.marincharitable.org](http://www.marincharitable.org).