

The Newsletter of

The Santa Rosa Iris Society

44TH YEAR NUMBER 12

DECEMBER 2018

Officers 2018:

President

Jeff Davis

Vice President

Anna Cadd

Treasurer

Kitty Loberg

Secretary

Diana Ford

Past President

Rudy Ciuca

Historian

Anna Cadd

Membership Secretary

Alleah Haley

Librarian

Need Volunteer

Newsletter Editor

Alleah Haley

Directors thru 12/19:

Betty Ford

Anna Marie Hermansen

Directors thru 12/18:

Kathy McCallum

Delores McKey

Alleah Haley

Standing Committees:

Attendance

Diana Ford

Display Garden Chairmen

Jeff Davis

Jean Sharp

Door Prize Coordinator

Anna Marie Hermansen

Hospitality

Diana and Don Ford

LBAGC Representatives

Jeff Davis

Anna Cadd ...

Alleah Haley (Alternate)

Logistics Coordinator

Jim Begley

Photography

Marlene Horn

2018 Show Chairman

Kitty Loberg

2018 Assistant Show Chairman

Jeff Davis

2018 Potted Iris Sale Chairman

Need Volunteer

2018 Summer Rhizome Sale Chm.

Jeff Davis



Monday, December 10, 6:00 PM

Board Meeting – All Welcome!

*Where? Luther Burbank Art & Garden Center,
2050 Yulupa Ave., Santa Rosa*

Board Members, Officers, regular members, and other interested folks are encouraged to attend to help plan Santa Rosa Iris Society's programs for 2019. Think about what iris topics you'd like to learn more about, what

"field trips" you'd like to take as a society to botanical gardens or nurseries, the speakers you'd like hear and enjoy; and bring your ideas. Of course we'll have snacks and good holiday iris fellowship.

G Gardening Tips for December

Anna Cadd

1. Try to keep your garden area free of leaves, weeds, and pests for a healthier iris garden in 2019. But how to do it when it is cold, wet, and rainy and there is much to do before Christmas?
2. December is a good time to create or update the map of your iris beds or containers. This is especially important if labels are fading or could go missing. And while you're at it, go ahead and replace fading labels. You won't have time in April.
3. No need to fertilize again until February! But looking around for fertilizer now is a good idea.
4. Consider holiday gift giving. What about a living plant, like a blooming *Amaryllis*, a cyclamen, pansies, or even a bag of daffodils or tulips? Much better than the "perfect" gift from Walmart.
5. And speaking of gift giving, if you need to buy something for an older iris friend, why not buy him/her a membership in SRIS (form in this issue) or any garden club? Maybe a membership in AIS or one of its Sections, or share the cost of going to the AIS National Convention. Or simply check the AIS Storefront or Schreiner's gift shop for beautiful iris-related items and surprise your loved one with something that he/she has always wanted.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all SRIS members and our friends close and far away. With my love to all, Anna.



Sue: What has a jolly laugh, brings you presents, and scratches up your furniture?

Trish: Beats me. What?

Sue: Santa Claws.

From the President's Desk

As I read through the latest issue of the AIS Bulletin, I am continually impressed by the wealth of information in this wonderful publication. From information on the hybridizers and iris fanciers all across our country and abroad, to our youth bringing the genus *Iris* into the future, to science and history of irises, there is something for everyone's interest and always something to learn. And of course there are always the beautiful pictures of the infinite variety of choices to add to our garden. This issue also has all the 2018 Award Winners, including our own Anna and David Cadd's spuria 'Lemon Chiffon Pie', winner of the Eric Nies Medal. Thanks to all who put this bulletin together four times a year for us to enjoy.

Not a member of AIS? It is easy to join and membership is open to everyone! Membership benefits include four issues/year of the full color Bulletin *Irises*, and membership in its Northern California/Nevada/Hawaii chapter (Region 14). Dues are \$30 single annual, \$70 single triennial, \$35 dual annual, \$85 dual triennial for US addresses. Emembership is \$15 annual but does not include a printed Bulletin. Does provide online Bulletin viewing, access to the online iris register database of iris registrations and introductions. Make check payable to the American Iris Society or provide your VISA or Master Card number (see www.irises.org/About_AIS/Membership_Info/AIS_Membership.html). Send membership form (available at above website location) and check to:

Tom Gormley – AIS Membership Secretary
PO Box 177
DeLeon Springs, FL 52130

Jeff Davis

This Month

Monday, December 10, 6:00 PM – Board Meeting, LBAGC. Everyone welcome.

2018 Board Meetings - Board Members and Officers, please mark your calendars:

Monday, December 10, 6:00 PM

One night a Viking named Rudolph the Red was looking out the window when he said, "It's going to rain." His wife asked, "How do you know?" "Because Rudolph the Red knows rain, dear."

2018 Come Dressed as an Iris Name Potluck Party

Betty Ford

November 3rd proved to be another fun-filled afternoon as this year's "Come Dressed as an Iris Name" potluck party unfolded. After the festive round tables were set up, Anna Cadd did her usual magic by adding her special touch with persimmons, pomegranates, and red salvia accentuated with greenery. While Alleah Haley and Rudy Ciuca were in the kitchen preparing the turkey and starting it to roast in the oven, Alleah recruited Anna Marie Hermansen and Kathy McCallum to design the hat for her "iris name". They very cleverly attached silk flowers to a large brimmed white hat. A stunning touch for Alleah's "iris".

Joe Lawrence and Rudy brought the ham, and others started to arrive bringing with them an assortment of delectable dishes. As is the "norm" for this event, one by one folks started donning their "iris names", and the guessing game began. I'm not sure if this is just me, but this part seems to get tougher every year. So many irises have been introduced over the years, it becomes a real challenge to pull up the name I'm looking for from the depth of my memory bank of iris names.

Top award of the evening went to Alleah Haley who guessed the most iris names belonging to the cleverly disguised SRIS members. Alleah guessed correctly seven names of the 14 irises in attendance. Tied for runners-up with six iris names each were, Lynn Williams and Kathy McCallum.

And so the parade of wanna-be irises began. Linnea Polo stated that the jacket she wore was somewhat of a clue as it had lines in it and sort of resembled water. She wore placards attached to her front and back with a straight line drawn on them. Another placard read 'Indian Ocean'. Her iris was **OCEAN LINER** (Keppel 2017). The Master Perplexer Award went to Linnea. No one could guess her iris name.

Anna Marie Hermansen wore a t-shirt with the word SUNSET across the front. A small placard read "I'm Ready For My Closeup". If you happen to be an old classic movie buff, this was a no-brainer clue. Another placard inferred that it wasn't a street, road, drive or avenue. Hmmmmm, it must be boulevard. Her iris was **SUNSET BOULEVARD** (Keppel 2017).

Our president, Jeff Davis, created a bolt of lightning out of foil and fastened it to a black cloth which he wore over a black t-shirt. He also wore a string of flashing lights around his neck. I overheard him say that he spent quite a bit of time on his creation of **FLASH OF LIGHT** (T. Johnson 2008). It was pretty cool.

Dawn Wright arrived dressed in black. Her top was decorated with sparkling jewels and displayed a placard with the note "Goth Kids Wear This". Her iris name was **BLACK LIPSTICK** (Keppel 2016). While three folks guessed which iris she was, she still perplexed enough folks to tie for 2nd place for the Master Perplexer Award. Bob Wright's only clue was the heart monitor that he was wearing for **BROKEN HEART** (T. Johnson 2006). That was a really unique, sneaky clue, but two folks did guess his iris name.

Kitty Loberg, wearing a beautiful floral blouse which had nothing to do with her iris, decided to take advantage of the fringe decorating the bottom edge. She became a 1987 Hager TB iris, **FRINGE BENEFITS**. Sometimes folks are so subtly disguised, you just can't be sure if they are an iris or not. Steve Albert also took advantage of the shirt he was wearing which was printed with all sorts of New Orleans places and events. He gave us a clue stating that he was an all-time favorite and popular Louisiana iris. This iris turned out to be the oldest iris portrayed at our party, introduced in 1980 by Frank Chowning, **BLACK GAMECOCK**.

Kathy McCallum put on a huge, black witches' hat with long flowing orange tulle (a fine netting). Black feathers were attached to the tulle with tiny skeletons, making her hat quite awesome. She also had a bag for collecting treats for **TRICK OR TREAT** (Osborne 1984). Kathy tied for 2nd place for the Best Impersonation of an iris.

Ann Shippey joined in on the fun and displayed a creative sun caricature by enthusiastically pointing to it as she held it up for all to see. Her iris? Obviously it was **POINT TO THE SUN** (George Sutton 2013). Ann tied for 2nd place for the Best Impersonation Award.

Anna Cadd, dressed to the nine's including a little red hat, carried a big black umbrella. She had hung strings of little tear drop shapes covered with jewels around the edges of the umbrella. The little tear shapes represented rain drops falling around her. Anyone want to guess her iris? You're right if you guessed **RAIN DROPS KEEP FALLING** (Black 2016). Anna won the award for the Best Impersonation of an iris.

Lynn Williams dressed impeccably in fall colors wearing a corsage of autumn colored leaves and gold leaf earrings. She topped her attire with an orange, gold and green knit hat. Her iris? It had to be **AUTUMN COLORS** (M. Sutton 2010). Rick Williams merely wore light colored pants with a light orange shirt to represent the colors of the bi-colored iris he portrayed, **PUMPKIN PIE A LA MODE** (T. Johnson 2014). Nobody could guess either Lynn or her husband, Rick.

Alleah Haley was a stand-out in her zebra striped pants, complimented by a black blouse. Topping off her attire was the lovely one-of-a-kind hat, an original which was designed and created by Anna Marie and Kathy. Most folks thought that she might be Zebra Butter, but alas, how could we not know that she was Barry Blyth's 2006/2007 TB introduction, **GLAMOUR PANTS**? Those fancy pants won Alleah the award for everyone's favorite portrayal of an iris. The hat certainly added a touch of glamour. With only one person identifying her iris (Lynn), it is no wonder that she also tied 2nd place for the Master Perplexer Award.

As Loretta Figueroa divulged her iris name, she pulled a small antique swirl-around water sprinkler head out of a pouch. She swirled around the blue skirt that she was wearing to indicate swirling water. A clever way to portray her Louisiana iris name, **SWIRLING WATERS** (H. Pryor 2009).

That pretty much wraps up another 'Come as an Iris Name/Potluck Party. By my count, there were 19 folks enjoying this once-a-year occasion. I think everyone would agree that whether they could or couldn't guess the names of any iris in attendance, it didn't really matter. It's just as much fun whether you come as yourself or an iris name. There were lots of prizes to be won, thanks to Anna Marie, Alleah and Loretta for helping me with them. If I'm missing anyone else who donated a prize, I apologize

Start thinking about which iris you would like to become, and tuck that thought away in your memory bank. Next year, pull out that memory, become that special iris, then come to this fun filled 'party of the year' event. On the other hand, you do know that you don't have to be an iris, so just plan on coming with or without an "iris name". Of course you've heard about all the fantastic food at these events, right? That should be enough to entice you!

Happy Birthday December Babies

Linda Sotto 12/1

Marlene Freetly 12/2

Bob Plank 12/20

December Wedding Anniversary

Chris Bing and Jan Wax 12/31

The Iris Learning Center – Spuria Iris 'Wadi Zem Zem'

Anna Cadd*

Wadi is the Arabic term for a valley or ravine, bounded by relatively steep banks, found primarily in North Africa and the Middle East. A wadi is a mostly dry riverbed that contains water only during times of heavy rain. A wadi is the same thing as an arroyo of the American southwest. Wadis are located on gently sloping nearly flat parts of deserts. Permanent channels do not exist due to lack of continual water flow. Wadis, therefore, show braided stream patterns because of the deficiency of water and the abundance of sediments. The desert environment is characterized by sudden but infrequent heavy rainfall, often resulting in flash floods. As a result, crossing a wadi at certain times of the year can be very dangerous.

Uadi Zemzem (Wadi Zem Zem) is a wadi in Libya in North Africa. It is located at an elevation of 85 feet above sea level. So it is interesting that the iris hybridizer Carl S. Milliken, living in Arcadia in southern California, knew about this distant and remote place in an era before computers, TV and in a time when radio, books and National Geographic magazine were the window to the unknown world. It was also during WW II and I am sure that he didn't have a lot of knowledge about the military actions of the British Army in North Africa. But, he heard something about the battles in the area and named his new

spuria introduction after one of the locations of these battles. We probably would never have known about this place without Mr. Milliken, as we are not expected to know the details of British Army operations, and it would have been forgotten, if not for one British soldier named Keith Douglas, born in 1920. Douglas wrote a book titled "Alamein to Zem Zem," which is a military memoir of the Western Desert campaign of World War II.



Written by Douglas shortly before his death on June 9, 1944 at age 24. He was killed in France by a mortar shell explosion, days after surviving the Normandy landing. *Alamein to Zem Zem* was first published in 1946. El Alamein is a small town in Egypt on the Mediterranean Sea, (66 miles west of Alexandria and 149 miles northwest of Cairo). Wadi Zem Zem is in Libya, about 100 miles southeast of Tripoli, where the story ends. I think Mr. Milliken heard about the battle in Wadi Zem Zem and the young British poet-soldier who wrote about the sacrifices of soldiers from all nations, and named his new spuria to pay tribute to those who fought evil.

The book is mainly a personal account of Douglas' experiences as a young tank commander with the Sherwood Rangers Yeomanry (landowner volunteers) of the British Eighth Army at the Second Battle of El Alamein in October-November 1942. This classic war book was written by one of the finest poets of WWII. Keith Douglas, a 21-year-old English poet, was posted to Palestine in 1941 with a cavalry regiment. When fighting broke out at El Alamein in 1942, he was instructed to stay behind as a staff officer.

But he wanted to fight, and so, completely disobeying orders, he drove a truck to the location of the battle and participated as a tank commander. *Alamein to Zem Zem* is a vivid and unforgettable description of his experiences on the desert battlefield, seen through the eyes of a poet-soldier.



Keith Douglas on the battlefield



"Highly charged, violent descriptive prose ... conveys the humor, the pathos and the literal beauty of the dead world of tanks, sand, scrub and human corpses. Scenes of unforgettable pity and terror unfold. Everything from flowers carpeting the desert in winter to vanquished enemies, is seen with the poet's eye and the generosity of youth." As much as I hate war; I was mesmerized as I read the Douglas memoirs, his deep humanity and pity for his fallen comrades, but also for his enemies. *Alamein to Zem Zem* tells of the eerie alien world of desert warfare where the men lived among sandstorms, flies, mosquitoes (not forgetting fever brought out by diminutive sand flies), desert sores, blind valleys, endless wastes of sand, roasting days, frozen nights, mirages and tricks of the light, machine-gun bullets visible against the clear starlight, booby-trapped corpses and derelict vehicles. It's a touching

moment when Douglas rejoins his brigade after learns who has survived and who didn't. This is a up to its billing as a classic war memoir.

But I am supposed to write about Carl Milliken from who introduced four spuria irises: 'Mt. Whitney', 'Mt. Zem' and 'White Heron', and particularly about The AIS Iris Encyclopedia includes very little information about 'Wadi Zem Zem'.

Carl S. Milliken, left 'Wadi Zem Zem', right



convalescence and great read and lived

Arcadia, California, Wilson', 'Wadi Zem 'Wadi Zem Zem'.

'Wadi Zem Zem' (Carl S. Milliken, R. 1943) SPU. Color Class-Y4M. Honorable Mention: 1952 Eric Nies Medal: 1956

The Milliken Iris Garden catalog for 1945 included this description: " 'Wadi Zem Zem' (Milliken). A clear cream colored spuria, remarkably large in size and of excellent shape. The rounded spreading falls are two inches more in width, the standards are erect and open. Height 4 feet. Stock is very limited. \$7.50."

As you may have noticed, the parentage of 'Wadi Zem Zem' is unknown. Backed by a strong family resemblance, 'Wadi Zem Zem' appears to be a direct descendant of *I. monnieri*, which was discovered growing in a garden in France. No wild habitat has been found; and although it was given a species designation at the time of its discovery, it is no longer considered a valid species. There are certain morphological similarities between *I. monnieri* and 'Turkey Yellow' (named for the Middle Eastern country of Turkey, not the bird), particularly the short recurved style crests unlike those of either *I. orientalis* or *I. crocea* but strongly resembling those of *I. monnieri*, would indicate that *I. monnieri* is indeed a hybrid between 'Turkey Yellow' and *I. orientalis*. 'Turkey Yellow' and *I. orientalis* both grow wild in similar areas of Turkey.

'Wadi Zem Zem' won the first ever Nies Award in 1956. It revolutionized the breeding of the spuria irises in two ways. First, it bequeathed to its offspring superior flower form - all of the better yellows in commerce can be traced back to 'Wadi', one or more times: Combs' 'Golden Lady', Walker's 'Oroville', Ferguson's 'Good Thunder', and Hager's 'Archie Owen'. Also, the influence of 'Wadi' is a force in the genetic background of varieties in all of the wide range of colors of the modern spuria irises. The entrance of orange-yellow coloring onto the scene was the immediate result of crossing 'Turkey Yellow' with 'Wadi Zem Zem'.

Second, and possibly more importantly, 'Wadi Zem Zem' carries resistance to troublesome virus infections in spuria irises, which then it passed on to many of its progeny. All spuria varieties that show resistance to virus damage can be traced directly back to 'Wadi Zem Zem', an important phenomenon for an iris series in which virus infection is the primary malady. I wonder if someone still grows this pioneering spuria variety.

Now there are 31 cultivars with 'Wadi Zem Zem' as one parent in its pedigree. I call them "children" of 'Wadi Zem Zem'. Some of them were used in multiple crosses during subsequent years and some were not used at all. In my original article for Spuria News I showed the usage of "children" of 'Wadi Zem Zem' in crosses, and in providing the next generations of 'Wadi Zem Zem' "relatives." This illustrates how this one iris is in the pedigree of many modern spuria varieties during about 70 years of iris spuria hybridizing, and how they are all related to 'Wadi Zem Zem', 'Turkey Yellow' and *I. orientalis*.

The "children" of 'Wadi Zem Zem' with the most influence in modern spuria varieties are: 'Anacapa', 'Golden Lady', 'Good Nature', 'Investment', 'Morningtide' and 'Wakerobin'. Grandchildren with the biggest involvements in modern varieties are: 'Burnished Brass', 'Intensity', 'Antiqua', 'Archie Owen', 'Connoisseur', 'Far Out', 'Lydia Jane', 'Plenty Of Sunshine', 'Yellow Wings', 'Baritone', 'Fairfield', 'Windfall', 'Elan Vital', 'Contradiction' and 'Moon Bay Day'.

Because relatively few spuria varieties have been introduced in the last 50 years, children, grandchildren, great grandchildren and so on were crossed back and forth, passing the good traits of mostly *I. orientalis* into the next generations.

The Walker Ferguson breeding program from 'Monspur Premier' (Monnieri x Spuria) brought the strongly veined pattern, lending to 'Minneopa', McCown's 'Highline Sunset' and Hager's 'Sarong'. Also from this line appeared Ferguson's deep blues and violets, 'Fort Ridge' and 'Proverb'. Most of the color lines in spuria irises can be traced back to single origins, as yellow color are traced to *I. monnieri*.

The browns and lavender blues are exclusive developments from the original Nies cross of *I. orientalis* x 'Monspur'. A progression to better form can be found in the work of Ferguson and Hager from the original 'Elixir' through 'Intensity' to Hager's 'Eagle' and Ferguson's 'Forty Carats'.

Hybridizing of white spurias, which started with the white species *I. ochroleuca*, was lost along the way and is now re-appearing from more complicated lines. 'Wakerobin', the only notable white from Ferguson, is from 'Color Guard', a Nies blue, by yellow 'Wadi Zem Zem'. The problem with the whites is that breeders have been trying to eliminate the yellow signal spot and by so doing achieve what they consider a more attractive white flower. New whites with disappearing signals are also showing up in lines combining 'Wadi Zem Zem' with lavender-blue flowers, and in seedlings with *I. carthagenica* in the background.

Breeders are also working for more ruffling, which has obviously been slow of development in spuria irises. Walker's 'Lydia Jane' and Hager's 'Ila Crawford' are impressive whites with this feature. But I think that the point of this article is to show how most spurias in our gardens are closely related and how most have some traits of *Iris monnieri*, *Iris orientalis* and 'Wadi Zem Zem' as distant relatives.

We owe Carl S. Milliken much thanks for the gift of 'Wadi Zem Zem' and for connecting the world's past tragic history, geography, the story of a young, talented war hero with the peaceful appreciation of garden spuria irises in our everyday lives.

*This article appeared in Spuria News' Fall 2018 issue. Spuria News is a publication of the Spuria Iris Society, an AIS Section. It then appeared in *World of Irises*, an online blog of the American Iris Society on Monday, November 5, 2018. Because of the format of the blog, an extensive chart of 'Wadi Zem Zem's children was not included in the blog version. The editor of the SRIS Newsletter made additional edits for style and grammar.

The Spuria Iris Society has a Facebook page and they maintain a website: <http://www.spuriairissociety.org>.

February through October of each year meetings of the Santa Rosa Iris Society are held on the second Monday of each month at the Luther Burbank Art and Garden Center, 2050 Yulupa Ave., Santa Rosa, California. The Program starts at 7:00 p.m. and the business meeting follows after the break. Come early and visit. The doors open about 6:00 p.m. for set up and coffee making. The deadline for all submissions for the **January 2019** issue of this Newsletter is **December 20, 2018**. E-mail copy to: alleah.haley@gmail.com.

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### Keeping In Touch

The Society received a Christmas card from **Juanita Breckwoldt** and her son Bob Jr., postmarked December 1, 2018, that included the following note:

To SRIS members:

We wish all of you a Merry Christmas. We miss the people but are so much better off here.

Keith Keppel, Tom Johnson & Steve Schreiner all within 5 miles have all come to the house to welcome us and tell us about the area. We joined the Oregon Trails Iris Society. They are a small club, but a lot of hybridizers.

We have room for people to spend nights here and a spot for RV hookup in backyard. Come up and see the beautiful area. Juanita

Their contact information is:

**Juanita and Bob Breckwoldt**

3415 48<sup>th</sup> Ave. NE

Salem, OR 97305-2910

503-551-6778

**Marlene Freetly** had a 3<sup>rd</sup> operation on her back on November 1; and in a follow-up visit to her doctor, he said her back is “fine.” Problem is, she doesn’t feel “fine” and needs to take heavy pain killers.

**Marlene** welcomes cards/notes to her at:

1632 Old Adobe Rd.

Petaluma, Ca 94954

### *Errata*

The October 2018 Newsletter gave an incorrect date for **Darlene Anderson**’s birthday. It’s February 12, not a date in October!

Our November 2018 Newsletter spelled the last name of new member **Linda Sotto** wrong and incorrectly identified **Marlene Horn** when we said she fancied TB iris ‘Shah Jehan’. Thanks to eagle-eyed members for keeping us straight.

### Looking for a Specific TB Iris?

Anna Cadd

There is a new “search engine” that is very useful if you are looking to buy a specific tall bearded iris. The web site is TBfinder at [www.tbfinder.com](http://www.tbfinder.com). This website will match the name of a variety you are looking for with its availability at these 15 commercial iris gardens:

- Blue J Iris
- C and T Iris Patch
- Iris4u Iris Garden
- Iris Sisters Farm
- Iriswarehouse
- Keith Keppel Iris
- Mid-America Garden
- Napa Country Iris Garden
- Rocky Top Gardens
- Schreiner Iris Gardens
- Scott's Iris Gardens
- Stout Gardens
- Suttons Iris Gardens
- The Shady Spot Iris
- Wild Iris Rows

You can even vote to add specific gardens to this very useful service.

Tbfinder.com lists 7,000 varieties of TBs with prices from these commercial sources. Includes several hundred iris photos and links to the gardens’ websites that, in turn, have even more photos and descriptions. This is the starting point to look for a TB iris you’ve lost and want to replace.



## Joe Ghio Turns 80!

based on an article by Charlie Kearns in *Bay News*, the Newsletter of the Monterey Bay Iris Society, Nov – Dec., 2018

What a party it was! Over 70 celebrants turned out on October 26 at the Monterey Bay Iris Society meeting held at the Simpkins Swim Center in Santa Cruz to wish Joe a Happy 80th Birthday. MBIS invited family and friends of Joe, members of the Clara B. Rees Iris Society, and members of two other local garden clubs, of which Joe is a member: The Monterey Bay Rose Society and the Monterey Bay Dahlia Society.

Turns out that October 26 is the actual day of Joe's birth. Later, Joe said that he suspected the Society might have a cake or something, but he was quite surprised with the festive décor and number of guests. Joe's brother, Gene, and Gene's daughter, Nicole, joined Joe at the head table. Decorations included anchored balloon bouquets soaring above the eating tables, bud vases of irises, poster board displays of family photos and of many of Joe's hundreds of PCI, spuria, Louisiana, and TB introductions. A CD of family photos was projected on a screen and the party included a potluck dinner crowned by Joe's favorite Italian Rum Cake.

Joe Ghio helped found the Monterey Bay Iris Society and has mentored it for many years. He was the RVP of AIS Region 14 1974-1976.

From the Editor – **Many thanks** for contributions to this issue: **Juanita Breckwoldt, Anna Cadd, Jeff Davis, Betty Ford, Marlene Freetly, Anna Marie Hermansen, Charlie Kearns** of Monterey Bay IS, **Linnea Polo**, and **Bob Wright**.  
*Alleah*

## Camp Fire Victims Fund

I am very sorry to report that two members of the Leo T. Clark Iris Society, Bonny McDaniel and Tina McMahan, lost their homes in the Camp Fire. Our hearts go out to them in this difficult time.

I would like to raise funds for them, similar to what we did for the Region 14 victims of the Santa Rosa area fires. If you would like to donate, please make your check out to AIS Region 14, and add a note in the memo line that it is for the fire victims. Please mail your check to:

Helen Franklin, Treasurer, Region 14  
5621 Oakhill Ct.  
Santa Maria, CA 93455

Thanks for your generosity,  
Jean Richter, RVP-elect  
AIS Region 14

*Sean: Knock, knock.*

*Pete: Who's there?*

*Sean: Murray.*

*Pete: Murray who*

*Sean: Murray Christmas, one and all!*

## Minutes of Santa Rosa Iris Society Board and Members' Meeting, October 8, 2018

The meeting started out with a discussion of the gift basket for the Reno Fall Regional meeting.

Anna Cadd agreed to put together all of the materials and reimbursement was agreed upon.

Anna was encouraged to purchase some Siberians and other non-bearded iris to replace those we lost this year.

This year's Fall Regional has a registration fee of \$120 for the convention with rooms running about \$75. There is a walking tour of the botanical gardens included.

The Luther Burbank Center got two new refrigerators and stoves.

Shirley Trio and Riley Probst came to discuss the 2019 Spring National Convention being sponsored by Region 14. They very kindly brought some lovely reblooming rhizomes and a 2018 introduction to raffle at the meeting.

There was a discussion of logistics for lunch at Joe and Rudy's, portable bathrooms, tables, and chairs. These might be rented locally. Rudy and Shirley agreed on a price for the lunch. Nothing has been formalized yet.

Shirley handed out minutes from the spring regional in Mariposa and spoke about plans for the 2019 National Convention. Joe Ghio has agreed to host a tour of his gardens on the Monday of convention week. This will be an extra \$85. There will be a 6:00 p.m. meeting that day at the hotel.

There may be a judges training on Tuesday and a garden lecture with a training at night.

Wednesday there will be presentations, section meetings, banquet and an iris show.

Thursday there will be garden tours in Sacramento and Mary Ann Hortons'. One garden is flat and one has a slight hill. Thursday night is judges training by Bonnie Nichols.

Friday will be lunch and a garden tour at Joe and Rudy's with a winery stop included. There will be an Iris Auction that night.

Saturday will be at Cummins House, 2 gardens and a banquet.

Shirley said that many clubs were donating money or items to the event.

We will need to come up with a 100 cup coffee pot.

(This is where my notes get confusing. The problem with typing this up so far after the fact is I don't remember what my scribbles mean. I have a name Clare DeHalt [Char Holt? Has volunteered to help arrange roommates to reduce hotel costs? Ed.] and Wed. 24<sup>th</sup> April, no idea why??? Also Bob Hollingworth and Doug Kanarowski, maybe judges training, but I'm not sure now. Need corrections here.)

We had a wonderful speaker who waited patiently while we hashed out these many details. Glynis Johnson of Enchanting Sweet Peas of Sebastopol has been called the Sweet Pea lady. She grows English Spencer sweet peas that have longer stems and larger flowers. She gave us a lovely presentation and offered seed starter kits.

## School Garden Network

The School Garden Network began in 2004, under the fiscal sponsorship of the Occidental Arts and Ecology Center. A group of committed garden educators was looking for ways to support children and their school gardens. Additional funding and commercial partnerships were secured to support the Schoolyard Habitat, Healthy Roots and Teen Apprenticeship programs. These efforts shaped the school gardens you see in our community today.

Fifteen years later we have new school gardens to support and encourage. A large California Department of Food and Agriculture grant is ending, and the School Garden Network (SGN) is asking the community for support.

SGN gives grants to school gardens, offers professional development workshops and summer teen apprenticeships, and guidance on healthy food choices.

The Teen Apprentice Program, for example, runs from mid-June through July, two workdays each week. The "team" consists of 9-10 teen apprentices, 1 Master Gardener volunteer, and 1 SGN program manager. The teens learn gardening fundamentals, plants and propagation, garden and irrigation design and install drip irrigation systems. They trained most recently with Harmony Farm Supply at Ceres Community Garden in Sebastopol, at Shone Farm (SRJC) and Petaluma Bounty. In 2018 they installed irrigation systems in seven school gardens and provided irrigation supplies for two additional Sonoma County schools. Automated irrigation frees garden program staff from countless hours of hand watering, and encourages water conservation.

Sponsors of SGN include Blueavocado Graphic Design, Friedman's Home Improvement, Harmony

Farm Supply of Sebastopol, the National Heirloom Exposition, and Ron Rubin Winery.

School Garden Network of Sonoma County  
PO Box 1367  
Sebastopol, CA 95473-1367



Adaptive Gardening with Toni Gattone

November 2018 e-Newsletter, with edits. Printed with permission.

I've been thinking a lot about taking inventory of all things in life. Not just clothes that no longer fit or clutter in drawers, but what is true for me right now, today? I've been asking myself: What no longer serves me? What makes me happy?

I recently decided to take my own advice and I took the plunge by closing the doors to my business, Toni Gattone & Associates, after nearly 30 years. It has been scary and exciting, all at the same time. The truth is I was expending energy on things that no longer nourished my soul. Now I can spend more time focused on sharing my true passion, which is to help gardeners like you, to continue doing what you love to do, regardless of your age or physical condition.

This month's newsletter focuses on how to find ease when you garden, ideas to make your garden easier to care for, plus I share some cool tools that will make working in the garden easier on your body.

### **Adapting Yourself | Expect Ease**

How can you get to a place of looking for peace or ease, at every intersection? How do we get to there when our back, hips, shoulders, or wrists are screaming at us?

By focusing your attention on all things being easy, rather than anticipating a chore is going to be hard. Think about and expect ease at every turn and ask yourself: "How can I find a new way to do this so it will be easier on my body?"

Here are a few other easy ideas:

- Before every chore, phone call, or event, expect it will happen with harmony and have the most benevolent outcome (MBO).
- Develop the philosophy: Done is better than perfect. Some of us, myself included, tend to make things harder than they need to be, and we struggle by tweaking and re-tweaking, working and reworking our gardens. When you get to a place of: done is better than perfect, then sit back and enjoy it.
- Know your limits, what you can and cannot do, and know when to say: "BASTA!" (Enough!)

### **Adapting Your Garden | Ease of Access**

The #1 goal in re-envisioning your garden is to create an easy-care garden that is kinder to your body. Here are some smart ideas for garden accessibility:

- Arrange garden beds near your home and driveway, if possible, to decrease the distance you and your helpers have to carry heavy things.
- Prune fruit trees to an easy-to-reach height for maintenance and harvesting, so you don't have to get on a ladder.
- Restrict the depth of your garden beds and raised beds to a maximum of 3 to 4 feet across and use long-reach tools.
- If you have back issues, incorporate containers, raised beds, and vertical garden opportunities, so you can stand or sit to garden.

## Toni's Tool Tips

Here's a few of my favorite tools that make working in the garden easier:

- **Reversible Kneeler Seat** – I love this tool, as does anybody who owns one. Why? Because it's strong enough to help me get up when I'm kneeling and when I turn it over, it makes a handy seat next to my containers, when I'm planting, tending, and harvesting.
- **Short Reach Cut and Hold Pruner** – When you need to reach into the center of a rose bush or lemon tree to do deadhead and prune, this tool is two feet long and it does the work for you so you come out unscathed from those gnarly thorns.
- This time of year there are so many leaves and so little time. I finally figured out how to avoid aggravating my back with that same repetitive movement when sweeping, I found this **Earthwise Cordless Leaf Blower** that makes quite work of blowing leaves with very little effort and it's quiet, so it doesn't wake up the whole neighborhood.

Be sure to tell them Toni Gattone sent you!

And visit Toni's website: [www.tonigattone.com](http://www.tonigattone.com), where you can sign up for her newsletter. Next year, Toni's book *The Lifelong Gardener* will be published by Timber Press. Toni Gattone spoke to our club on adaptive gardening in May, 2016. She lives in Marin County and is available to speak to other clubs. She can be reached at 415-[415-505-6340](tel:415-505-6340). [hello@tonigattone.com](mailto:hello@tonigattone.com).

## DUES NOTICE

Your Newsletter mailing label gives the expiration date of your SRIS dues. If it reads "12/18", please write a check payable to Santa Rosa Iris Society for \$15/person and mail it to new membership secretary Alleah Haley. **Electronic Newsletter recipients: check your expiration date on the membership list printed in the October 2018 Newsletter unless you know you've paid for 2019.** Use the renewal form in this issue.

## Winter Mood Lifters

based on an article by Karyn Repinski in *Parade* magazine, December 2, 2018/

When the days get darker and the sun sets sooner, it's important to brighten up your day. Here are easy ways to beat the winter blues.

1. **Veg Out.** Plant-based foods like fruits and vegetables feed the good bacteria in our gut that help produce mood-regulating neurotransmitters like serotonin. It doesn't have to be fresh: Frozen produce often retains its flavor and nutrition.
2. **Employ Flower Power.** People who woke up to flowers reported a better mood in a recent study. So place a vase of tulips or daisies [or irises] on your bedside table. When in doubt, opt for blooms that are yellow, a hue that's often associated with sunshine, energy, and happiness.
3. **Make a Photo Album.** Positive memories greatly enhance our present happiness and can even reduce depression. Sort through your photos and assemble the happy ones into a book you can flip through again and again.

. . . to be continued

## APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL IN THE SANTA ROSA IRIS SOCIETY

Membership in the Santa Rosa Iris Society is on an annual basis from January through December.  
**Renewals are due January 1<sup>st</sup> of each year.** The current dues are:  
Single Membership \$15.00 Dual Membership \$30.00

Please make your check payable to the **Santa Rosa Iris Society** and mail it with this form to the Membership Secretary:

ALLEAH HALEY  
208 EUCALYPTUS AVE.  
COTATI, CA 94931

NAME(s)\_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS\_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE/ZIP CODE\_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE NUMBER\_\_\_\_\_

e-MAIL ADDRESS\_\_\_\_\_

BIRTHDAY\_\_\_\_\_

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY AND SPOUSE'S NAME\_\_\_\_\_

AIS MEMBER: YES\_\_\_\_\_ NO\_\_\_\_\_

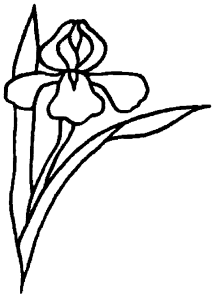
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**I would like my Newsletter by email: YES\_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_**

If "NO", Newsletter will be snail-mailed to the physical address above.

Santa Rosa Iris Society  
Alleah Haley, Newsletter Editor  
208 Eucalyptus Ave.  
Cotati, CA 94931

Name and Address Correction requested



The Newsletter of

# ***The Santa Rosa Iris Society***

44th YEAR NUMBER 12

DECEMBER 2018

**President:**  
Jeff Davis

**Vice President:**  
Anna Cadd

**Newsletter Editor:**  
Alleah Haley

## **Meetings & Membership**

The Santa Rosa Iris Society meets the second Monday of each month February through October at 7:00 p.m. at the Luther Burbank Art and Garden Center, 2050 Yulupa Avenue, Santa Rosa, California. In November instead of having a regular meeting, we have our annual holiday potluck dinner and dress up as an iris name costume party.

Membership dues are \$15.00 per year. Send payment to: Santa Rosa Iris Society c/o Alleah Haley, 208 Eucalyptus Ave., Cotati, CA 94931. Membership offers regular meetings, iris door prizes, special programs, use of our library, a monthly newsletter, annual iris show and rhizome sale, and fellowship with other iris lovers.

**January Newsletter Deadline – December 20<sup>th</sup>**