

The Newsletter of

The Santa Rosa Iris Society

50th YEAR NUMBER 6

JUNE 2024

Officers 2024:

President

Anna Cadd

Vice President

Jeff Davis

Treasurer

Kitty Loberg

Secretary

Diana Ford

Past President

Jeff Davis

Historian

Anna Cadd

Membership Secretary

Anna Cadd

Librarian

Need volunteer

Newsletter Editor

Anna Marie Hermansen

Assistant Editor

Kathy McCallum

Directors thru 12/24:

Linnea Polo

Steve Albert

Denise Plummer

Directors thru 12/25:

Paul Barthlome

Ellen Johnson

Standing Committees:

Attendance

Diana Ford

Display Garden Chairmen

Jeff Davis

Iris Distribution Coordinator

Anna Marie

Hermansen

Hospitality

Diana and Don Ford

LBAGC Representatives

Jeff Davis

Anna Cadd

Alternate - Need Volunteer

2024 Show Chairman Denise Plummer

2024 Assistant Show Chairman

Jeff Davis

2024 Potted Iris Sale Chairman

Diana Ford

2024 Summer Rhizome Sales Chm.

Need Volunteer



Happy Birthday
To Everyone
Born in June!

Kitty Loberg
Lynnda Barthlome
Jeff Davis

June 10 - noon at LBA&GC -

For our meeting, we will have a special treat. Our speaker will be Jeff Bennett, the Gardener and Park Ranger for the Dry Creek Pioneer Regional Park in Union City, Ca. Please come and enjoy this wonderful speaker.

Members will also discuss setting dates for digging the club irises, plans for our picnic and iris auction for our members, and plans for preparation of our public plant fundraiser in September. It is this time of year when things get very busy!

We plan on having a small potluck lunch buffet at the meeting. The club will furnish some basic lunch items. Members may also bring goodies as usual.

Please come and participate in planning our upcoming events, get a door prize iris, and enjoying a wonderful speaker from Union City.

See next page for more information about Jeff Bennett.

Jeff Bennett, Dry Creek Pioneer
Regional Park, 550 May Road,
Union City, Ca,

Jeff Bennett is a Gardener and Park Ranger for the Dry Creek Pioneer Regional Park. He is the President of his local club, Mt. Diablo Iris Society, a member of Sidney B. Mitchell Iris Society, and is married to a veterinarian with two teen-age boys. Formerly a retail pet store owner, he sold everything except dogs and lizards. When his store closed in 2006, he returned to college to study horticulture and was hired at his present job with the East Bay Regional Park District.

The path of the land evolution from private to public provides a colorful history. Three Meyers sisters – Edith, Mildred and Jeanette – bought the property during the Depression. They lived together their entire lives, and because none had any offspring, they wanted to protect their cottage and gardens from public sales after their deaths. They donated their 1,200 acre Dry Creek Ranch in 1978 to form Dry Creek Pioneer Regional Park, with the cottage and garden bequeathed in 1995. The gift is to date the largest private land donation to the East Bay Regional Park District.

Bobcats, coyotes, foxes, deer, wild turkeys, raccoons, skunks, squirrels, hawks, golden eagles and monarch butterflies live wild and free within the park. Highlighted with natural surroundings, 300-year-old sycamore trees, oaks and other natives thrive, while some exotic species have been introduced. The sisters designed stone walls and pathways to further the beauty and lay the solid foundation for the Park.

When not busy maintaining the gardens, Jeff enjoys coin collecting, kayaking, camping and panning for gold in the Sierras. Jeff has worked with several iris Society volunteers to maintain the 42 raised beds containing over 1000 Dry Creek irises of many species. The Garden was the Master Planting for The American Iris Society National Convention hosted by Region 14, “The Sun Sets On Rainbows” in

April 2019 in San Ramon, Ca. There were 750 Convention Guest irises of many types and the garden was spectacular with the well growing plants. It was a really magical setting.

Jeff always opens this beautiful garden to all iris visitors!

More info about Jeff on theamericanirissociety.blogspot.com for December 14, 2020



Iris garden at Dry Creek during the 2019 National.

President's Message - from Anna Cadd

More and more I am thinking about time, which is passing by so quickly... This is the standing joke "oh my God, it is June already! Can you believe it?"

After Christmas we waited for the blooming of irises, and today here on the beds are only the drying bloom stalks. Spuria irises are also almost over. Still, some of my Pseudatas will bloom in their pots, but that's all ... Another 10 months of not seeing irises...

But there is another kind of loss. More and more we hear about the passing of friends. Some unexpected, some after a long illness. Today we learned of the passing of Shirley Trio from Modesto, wife of Riley Probst. Even though she was very sick, she attended the Spring Regional in Auburn three weeks ago, putting in her best effort to still enjoy the gardens. She had been active in many clubs, in several Regions, and at the National level for years and years. She will be missed by many Irisarians. Life is unpredictable, so, please say hello to someone today, hug someone and tell them – I love you, today....

New Members



Bill Sirvatka - Santa Rosa
billys95404@yahoo.com

Tari Kerss - Santa Rosa
contact4tari@gmail.com



Rudolph Lawrence Ciuca

February 21, 1931 ~ April 16, 2024 (age 93)

Rudolph Lawrence Ciuca was born on February 21, 1931 in Vandergrift, Pennsylvania to Giuseppe Ciuca and Carrie Manifest. He passed away on April 6, 2024 at his home in Sonoma, California.

Rudy went through High School in Vandergrift where he played clarinet and saxophone in the band and the school orchestra. He and his cousins also had a band which played for dances in the area.

After High School, he went to work in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania for a while. Then in 1953, he joined the Navy. He did basic training in Great Lakes Naval Base, Chicago. He attended Hospital Corpsman school and Operating Room Technical at Great Lake also. After completing Operating Room training, he was stationed at Mare Island Naval Base at Vallejo, Ca. before transferring to Oak Knoll Naval Station Hospital in Oakland, Ca., where he worked in the operating room. During this time, he made Lifelong Friends with Hal and Betty Bellows.

In the last year of his service, Rudy was assigned to the Marine Corp. because they did not have medical personnel in the corp. so the Navy provided the medical personnel. After completing basic training in the Marine Corp., he was assigned to Japan, which was the last place he wanted to be assigned. He arrived at his base in the middle of the night so when he got up the next morning, he was surprised to see Mt. Fuji in the back ground. He determined that he was going to climb that mountain, which he did before he left Japan.

During his time in Japan, he learned a lot about photography from a Japanese photographer who took pictures of Japanese fighter pilots. He developed a great interest in photography which he did a lot of the rest of his life. In the 80's, he decided to start painting some of the scenes that he took pictures of. He said painting was a way of relaxing and ended up painting more than one thousand paintings. Anyone who said they liked his painting usually left with one or more of his paintings.

After he was discharged from the Navy in 1956, he went to work at the VA Hospital in San Francisco as a surgical tech in the operating room. He went to college and in 1962 became a Registered Nurse and continued to work in the operating room at the VA Hospital as a RN. Later he became the Head Nurse in the Operating Room. He was assigned as Head Nurse on the surgical ward. He was later assigned to an Out Patient Clinic in Oakland. Rudy became the Assistant Chief Nurse at the Martinez VA Hospital. When the current Chief Nurse retired, he became the Chief Nurse at the Martinez VA Hospital. While there, he managed other VA clinics in Northern California. Rudy retired after working 44 years for the VA. After retiring he was hired by the VA as a consultant for VA hospitals and clinics to get them ready for Joint Commission of Hospitals Accreditation.

In the early 70's Rudy returned to school again and received two Masters of Art degrees, first in Public Health and then in Education. In 1982 he became the President of the Jack London Foundation a not-for-profit organization that worked with schools to promote reading and writing.

He was an active member of the American Iris Society and the Santa Rosa Iris Society. Again, he was interested in teaching young people about growing and showing Irises.

Rudy is survived by his husband and partner of 62 years Joe Lawrence, sisters-in-law's Louise Ciuca, Luana Ciuca, niece Patty Ciuca, grand niece Chiara DeJoy and grand nephews Peter (Kaitlin) Duffy and Shea Duffy, and great grand nephew Roy Duffy. He has other nieces and Grand nieces and nephews.

He was preceded death by his parents, brother's Tony Ciuca, Johnny Ciuca, sisters in--law Evalee Ciuca, Delores Ciuca and nephew Gary Ciuca. In October of 2023 he was diagnosed as having stage four cancer and passed away on April 6, 2024. He was surrounded by his husband Joe Lawrence, family and friends.

from the Press Democrat, May 27, 2024 and Duggans Mission Chapel, Sonoma

Gardening Tips for June



1. Ah, the lazy days of summer!!!! Isn't it nice to just relax, lie on the hammock (if you can climb up on it) in the shade of the old tree, with sun speckles tickling your toes, with a good book and a can of cold beer? If only I can clear my head of unwanted, uneasy thoughts: the grass needs to be mowed...the tomatoes and beans need to be planted... the flower pots need to be watered...the sprouting spurge all over needs to be pulled... ..Ah, close my eyes for another 10 minutes and forget about everything.....
2. As I return to reality, I realize that the weeding of irises, fertilizing and watering are now crucial. About eight weeks after bloom we need to do these tasks. I still have several varieties in full bloom, and it is the end of May; what a strange year! The irises are now growing their rhizomes and blooms for next year, so fertilizing and watering are very important. With the moisture and heat spells, we need to watch for bacterial soft rot, especially in big 2-3 year old clumps. Of course, we need to cut the old bloom stalks.
3. Talking about cutting the old bloom stalks, did you notice that some of them are very easy to "snap off" from the plant, and some require cutting with scissors or clippers? This depends on the variety. Of course, I love the "snap the stalk" plants. So much easier on the old back! I noticed doing this work that this year's irises were very tall, some over 50" and needed to be staked. And interesting, that with an abundance of water, most of them had an additional branch at the bottom of the stalk. There were 2 main branches and the spur for a total of 7-8 flowers in the sockets, and on the bottom was additional branch with 4-6 flowers. For the show this additional branch needs to be removed, as there is no way to stage this stalk properly in the holder. But in the garden – the more, the merrier!
4. If you like succulents, this is the time to plant them. They make perfect borders for rock gardens. If you need some – I have a large collection to share!
5. We are entering another summer of possible drought ... time to conserve water. Some people stop watering at all, and what survives, that is the best plant. But we have mercy and we don't like gardens looking like a desert, so water early in the morning, mulch with organic mulch where possible, repair and adjust sprinklers, put on soaker hoses, check hoses for leaks and use a trigger sprayer when watering. If you can, incorporate polymers into your potted plants. They will release water when needed. Plant drought resistant and native plants and grasses. They can survive on minimal watering. But don't forget "watering holes" for lizards, frogs, bees, butterflies and birds. Take care of our small garden friends and fairies...



Keeping In Touch:

Jean Richter - President of Sydney B. Mitchell Iris Society - May 20, 2024

I am sending this newsletter out to a somewhat wider audience than usual to let you know some very sad news. Our co-president Shirley Trio-Probst passed away last Thursday. This is a grievous loss not just to our club but to Region 14 and AIS. Shirley was also a dear friend whom I will miss terribly, as I'm sure is the case for many of you as well. A celebration of life is being planned for next spring at Dry Creek Garden when the iris are in bloom.



*Shirley receiving the Larry Gaulter Award
for service to AIS Region 14*

Note from editor: If you want more info on her life, I can forward you a document..... Anna Marie

Anna Cadd - club activity

On Friday, May 17, 2024 we weeded the Display Garden. There were: Paul Barthlome, Jeff Davis, Linnea Polo, Cheryl Bryan, Kitty Loberg, Steve Albert and Anna Cadd. We weeded the spurge but we didn't finished it. There are 3 beds left to weed. We will also fertilize the irises and apply Preen again. It looks like Preen is not stopping the spurge, but there are no different weeds. Another full day in this blasting sun!



Linnea Polo - pictures from May 17 at the center



carpet of spurge before weeding



after weeding

Paul, Anna
Cheryl

Jeff, Paul,

**More
Keeping
Touch:**



Linnea,

Anna

In

Anna Cadd - Healdsburg Garden Club, May 20

Time to brag a little...as you probably know, I belong to Healdsburg Garden Club and I am so ancient, that I don't even need to pay my dues anymore. Anyway, on Monday, May 20, 2024 they were having the Small Rose Show. I was supposed to enter two Rose Arrangements – Oriental Style Rose Arrangement and Arrangement in the Teacup. When I arrived with my small flower bucket, sweet peas and some roses, I was told to forget the Teacup, as there are no more teacups! So, I took 3 roses from my bucket and entered them in Rose Competition. After judging – I almost fell from the chair – my rose, Polyantha “Gabrielle Privat” won The Best Rose of the Show! You never know how life will treat you – and I was treated with a \$ 25.00 gift certificate to Russian River Rose Company!



Best Rose Of the Show – Polyantha Rose

Gabrielle Privat

Anna's Oriental Style Rose Arrangement



STAY SAFE!

Jeff Davis - has been recovering after becoming very ill, hospitalized, and on antibiotics after returning from the Spuria Convention in Texas. We are glad he is much better now.



been recovering hospitalized, after returning from Texas. is much better now.

From Kitty Loberg via Facebook “Iris-Lovers” by Mason N Beth

Congratulations [Diana Ford!](#)
Centennial Celebration TB won the Claire Barr Award (Best Iris Cultivar introduced by a hybridizer outside of Region 15) at the [AIS Region 15](#) Spring Trek on April 20, 2024.



Results from our April 27/28 2024 Show!

Our 2024 show had 8 exhibitors, who entered a total of 80 entries!

By exhibitor, entries were as follows:

Marlene	19
Diana F.	17 (seedling)
Kitty	14
Denise	9
Ellen	8
Linnea	7
Cheryl	4
Steve	2

Our Judges were Helen Bliven of Berkeley, Lynn Williams of Willits, and Anna Marie Hermansen of Santa Rosa.

They awarded 32 First place, 22 Second place, 10 Third place, and 4 Honorable Mention ribbons.

Santa Rosa Iris Society Trophies awarded in the Horticultural Division 1 were:

Kitty Loberg	Flash Mob	AIS Best Specimen Of Show - AIS Best Tall Bearded Specimen	Luther Burbank Cup Santa Rosa Cup	Tall Bearded
Denise Plummer	Black Cherry Sorbet	First Runner-up Of Show Specimen Best Bearded Other Than Tall	Redwood Empire Cup Burbank Cup	Miniature Tall Bearded
Cheryl Bryan	Big Money	Best Beardless	Morris Cup	Pacific Coast Iris
Steven Albert	Mrs. Reuthe (1899)	Best Historic	Beeman Memorial Cup	Intermediate Bearded
Linnea Polo	Daring Deception	Best Bicolor, Bitone or Reverse	Beth Jolly Memorial Cup	Tall Bearded
Kitty Loberg	Freehand	Best Plicata or Emma Cook Pattern	Emmons Cup	Tall Bearded
Kitty Loberg	High Ho Silver	Best Rebloomer	Ethel Young Memorial Cup	Tall Bearded

Santa Rosa Iris Society Trophy and A.I.S. Best Seedling Rosette was awarded in the Seedling Division 2 to:

Diana Ford	Seedling 165 SWH7	Best Seedling	Peggy Burke Gray Cup	Tall Bearded
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Rosettes awarded in the Artistic Design Division 5 were:

Ellen Johnson	"1970's, The Me Decade"	Best Design Of Show
Ellen Johnson	Artistic Design Sweepstakes	Large Purple Rosette For Most Blue Ribbons

AIS Rosettes were given for Best Specimen of Section when the section had at least 3 exhibitors and at least 5 cultivars.

Kitty Loberg	Flash Mob	Best Specimen of Section	AIS Rosette	Tall Bearded
Steven Albert	Mrs. Reuthe	Best Specimen of Section	AIS Rosette	Historic

AIS Rosette, Special Horticultural Award

Denise Plummer	Black Cherry Sorbet	Special Award Horticultural Division	AIS Rosette	Miniature Tall Bearded
Cheryl Bryan	Big Money	Special Award Horticultural Division	AIS Rosette	Pacific Coast Iris
Linnea Polo	Daring Deception	Special Award Horticultural Division	AIS Rosette	Tall Bearded
Kitty Loberg	Freehand	Special Award Horticultural Division	AIS Rosette	Tall Bearded

A.I.S. Medals, A.I.S. Section Medal Certificates, and Horticulture Sweepstake Rosettes were awarded to:

Kitty Loberg	Most Blue Ribbons	AIS Silver Medal	- 10 cultivars in Division 1
		AIS Horticulture Sweepstakes Rosette	
Marlene Horn	2 nd Most Blue Ribbons	AIS Bronze Medal	- 5 cultivars in Division 1
Kitty Loberg	Most Blue Ribbons in Section	AIS Section Medal Certificate	- 6 cultivars in Section A - Tall Bearded
Kitty Loberg	Most Blue Ribbons in Section	AIS Section Medal Certificate	- 2 cultivars in Section J - Historic

Prepared by Kitty Loberg

A Photo Gallery of the 2024 Show by Kitty Loberg



Citrus Burst, by Linnea Polo



The oldest lady at the show,
Mrs. Reuthe (1899), by Steven Albert



Big Money, by Cheryl Bryan



Bravery, by Denise Plummer



True Patriot, by Marlene Horn



You're So Veined, by Kitty Loberg

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Flash Mob, by Kijy Loberg



Spades, by Marlene Horn



Darktonian, by Linnea Polo



DiplomaNco, by Linnea Polo



Pixi-Wan Kenobi, by Dennise Plummer



Seedlings, by Diane Ford



Seedlings, by Diana Ford



Mixed Signals, by Marlene Horn



Hollywood Nights by Marlene Horn

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Toucan Tango, by Ellen Johnson



2010's Gen. Z Decade, by Ellen Johnson



That's All Folks, by Kijy Loberg

pictures by Kitty Loberg

Minutes: Meeting - May 13, noon Diana Ford

Meeting attendees: Terry Kerss, Denise Plummer, Pam Whiting, Ellen Johnson, Anna Cadd, Jeff Davis, Kitty Loberg, Steve Albert, Diana Ford, Paul Barthlome, Kathy McCallum, Kendall Richard and Clara Brown.

Anna gave a presentation about our Spring Show, using photos taken by club members. Denise handed out awards from the show. Diana and Ellen gave a report on the potted iris sale and they were given cards of appreciation for potting all the Iris and caring for them for a year.

Jeff and Anna gave a presentation on the Spuria Convention they attended in Texas. Anna Cadd was the keynote speaker at the Spuria convention.

Anna spoke about the display beds here at the Clubhouse and set up a weeding party for Friday (bring your own tools and come when you can).

At the Spring Regional convention in Auburn, Anna Cadd won the David Niswonger Perpetual Trophy for Best Spuria iris as seen in the convention garden, for her iris, Nebula Wind (2022). She also won for Best Plicata for her iris, Poetry in Bloom. Kitty gave a wonderful presentation on the Spring Regional convention in Auburn with many photos of both convention gardens.

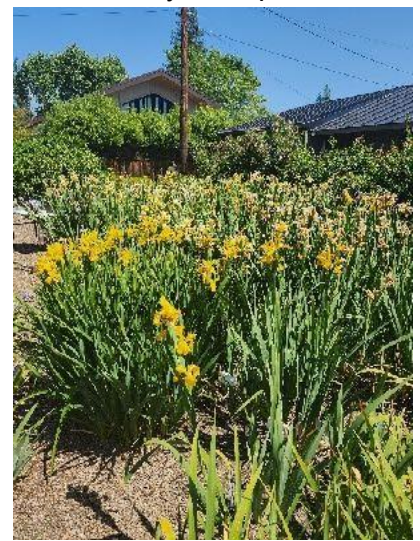
At Region 15's Spring Regional, Diana Ford won the Claire Barr award for the best Iris cultivar introduced by an out of region hybridizer, for Centennial Celebration.

Kitty prepared a tentative budget for the 2025 regional and we discussed ways to reduce costs. Many people contributed suggestions. There was also a discussion of banquet rooms and food, along with noting a lower attendance at this year's regional.



Spuria's in Anna Cadd's gardenby Kitty Loberg

I had a real treat today! I visited Anna's garden in Healdsburg, and WOW, was I amazed by her Spuria irises!



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The last photo, is Anna's 'Tower of Jewels'. Bees, butterflies and hummingbirds love it. The Tower of Jewels is native to the Canary Islands. While this plant stands at nearly seven feet tall, its tiny, salmon-colored flowers are what make it truly magnificent. As each tassel of flowers blooms into graceful curves along the plant, the stamens stick out as if dancing from the tiny flowers, transforming into a whimsical display of beauty.



Something to Look Forward To.....



2024 AIS National Convention, June 26 - 29 : Portland, Oregon
Convention Hotel: Holiday Inn, Portland - Columbia Riverfront
Hosted by the Greater Portland Iris Society

2024 Fall Regional - Region 14: October 11 - 12 : Fresno
Hosted by Region 14 with affiliate clubs of FIS, YIS, and JMGIS assisting.
Reblooming show on Friday; guest speaker will be Delane Langton, of Eagle Ridge Iris Garden in Billings, Montana. He is co-chair of the 2025 National Convention. He specializes in reblooming iris and has a guest garden for the national convention. If you have any questions about the Fall Regional, please contact Carolyn Hoover, yischoover@gmail.com

2025 Spring Regional - Region 14: May 2 - 4 : Santa Rosa

2025 AIS National Convention, June 2 - 7 : Billings, Montana

2026 AIS National Convention: New Jersey and New York

June Iris distribution:

Whatever irises remain after the meeting will be up for grabs to the people who did not attend. I will send out an email after the meeting with the remaining choices. If interested, please email me your choices in order of priority. Not all irises selected might survive until the dig, so please be aware that you may not receive what you requested.

BUTTERMILK AND BLUE CHEESE (Kanarowski, 2021)	MISS INDEPENDENT (Shadlow, 2023)
CATCH PHRASE (Johnson, 2023)	MYSTERY MAN (Keppel, 2023)
DARE TO BE DIFFERENT (Johnson, 2022)	NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS (Edwards, 2022)
EASTER DRESS (Keppel, 2023)	ONCE AND FOR ALL (Johnson, 2023)
ENDORA - IB (Johnson, 2023)	ONE IN A MILLION (Johnson, 2023)
GILDED CHOCOLATE (Miller, 2022)	PERFECT PICK - SDB (Sutton, 2023)
HEY Y'ALL - SDB (Sutton, 2023)	POLITELY PINK (Black, 2022)
IMMACULATE HEART (Keppel, 2022)	SUPERSTITIOUS - IB (Johnson, 2023)
LOVE YOU SO (Johnson, 2023)	TWO OF A KIND (Edwards, 2022)
MAXIMALIST ART (Keppel, 2023)	UNDERLINED (Keppel, 2022)

See next page for pictures. Please double check the photos and let me know if there are any errors.



BUTTERMILK AND BLUE CHEESE



CATCH PHRASE



DARE TO BE DIFFERENT



EASTER DRESS



ENDORA - IB



GILDED CHOCOLATE



HEY Y'ALL - SDB



IMMACULATE HEART



LOVE YOU SO



MAXIMALIST ART



MISS MAN



MYSTERY CHRISTMAS



NIGHT BEFORE ALL MILLION



ONCE AND FOR ONE IN A

KIND



INDEPENDENT



PERFECT PICK - SDB



POLITELY PINK



SUPERSTITIOUS - IB



TWO OF A KIND



UNDERLINED

Thank you to the following people for contributions to the newsletter ...
Kitty Loberg, Diana Ford, Jean Richter, and Anna Cadd

JULY Newsletter Deadline, June 20th



Region 14

2024 Fall Regional October 11-12-13, 2024

'A Fall Harvest of Colors'

Hosted by Region 14

Guest Speaker

Delane Langton, Co-Chair of the 2025 AIS National Convention,

Eagle Ridge Iris Garden, Billings, MT

Conference Room of the Redeemer Lutheran Church, Fresno, CA

1084 W. Bullard, Fresno, CA 93711

Lodging in your choice at hotels or Air B & Bs in the greater Fresno area.

Registration includes a full lunch on Saturday, and during the meeting Saturday morning there will be a light breakfast served consisting of coffee, tea, juice and light pastries on Sat and Sunday mornings. In garden tour and 1 hr. garden training at Bee Haven Iris Garden, Coarsegold on Sun. 10/13 @ 10:30 AM/

Registrant 1 First Name _____ Last Name _____

Registrant 2 First Name _____ Last Name _____

Address _____ City _____ ST _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ E-mail for confirmation _____

Local Iris Society _____

Registration if paid by September 7th, 2024, \$75 per person x person (s) Total \$ _____

If paid after September 7th, 2024 \$80 per person x person(s) Total \$ _____

Make checks payable to: Region 14 & mail to Registrar:

Joan Earnest, 40755 Griffin Dr. Oakhurst, CA 93644. (559)760-9873 bjearnest93644@yahoo.com