

OCTOBER 2021 MEETING

October 13th, 7:15 on Zoom via Internet

This meeting will be available on Zoom for Western Hort and Cal Hort members. The link will be sent to members prior to the meeting date. For information about joining or renewing your membership, go to <https://www.westernhort.org/membership>.

Speaker: Abra Lee

Topic: Lift Ev'ry Voice!

It was nothing short of a grand affair when a Florida floral business with family ties to a Harlem Renaissance legend was launched during the roaring twenties. And when it came time to sell her beautiful blooms, an iconic gospel singer made customers an offer they just couldn't refuse! From the ordinary to the extraordinary, join us as we celebrate iconic Black Americans in horticultural history.



Abra Lee is a national speaker, writer and founder of *Conquer the Soil*, a community dedicated to celebrating the history and art of horticulture! She has spent a whole lotta time in the dirt as a municipal arborist, extension agent, airport landscape manager and more. Lee is a graduate of Auburn University College of Agriculture and an alumna of the Longwood Gardens Society of Fellows, a global network of public horticulture professionals.

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

I hope that you enjoyed the information packed program last month from Renee Shepherd. I was finally motivated to try some cover crops in my garden this winter. This month our speaker, Abra Lee, will be Zooming in from Georgia, with her own inspiring take on the horticultural world. I hope that you will join us for that presentation. I want to remind you that this will be the last month that you will get the Zoom log-in for the presentation if you have not renewed your membership. We give every past member a two-month grace period for renewal in the fall but after that you will be removed from our current email list.

Many hands make light work in terms of chapter responsibilities. We are most appreciative to Ursula Haschke for agreeing to take over the Membership role from Carrie Parker as well as continuing to handle our electronic communications. Carrie took over the Membership role while she was president and continued to manage our membership records even after she left the board in May of 2019. We owe her a big debt of thanks for her generous gift of time to our organization through the years.

If everyone steps up to do a share, then we will continue to have a vibrant organization. We are currently looking for volunteers for soliciting and evaluating scholarship applications. We are also looking for board members who would be willing to step up for a leadership role in the next year. My 6-year board term will be ending by this time next year. If you want to learn more about these or other ways to contribute, feel free to contact any board member or email me at info@westernhort.org.

~ Janet Hoffmann

CONDOLENCES

The Western Horticultural Society offers condolences to Leslie Dean on the recent passing of her father. Members may remember John Dean (pictured on the left with Dick Clark and Glenda Jones) from when he attended our June 2019 picnic. Leslie and her husband were able to spend the last few weeks together with John.



SEPTEMBER SPEAKER NOTES

I still remember Renee Shepherd's presentation from 2012 when she told us about her travels in search of new seed varieties. Last month she gave a more practical presentation about plants to start now for harvests over the winter into next spring. As her earlier presentation told us, Renee's Garden Seeds come from all over the world. A "heavy concentration" of them come from Europe, where Renee told us, more people grow their gardens from seed than they do here. All of their seeds are tested both in their Felton trial gardens and in trial gardens in Vermont before being added to their seed line.

Ms. Shepherd regaled us with an extensive selection of crops that we could be starting in our gardens this time of year. For a complete list of the varieties that she presented you can view and download her [seed list](#) from our website. The fall through winter vegetables that Renee presented included root crops, greens, brassicas and some legumes like peas and fava beans. In addition she showed several herbs including arugula, chervil, chives, cilantro and parsley that are good for the cool season. For splashes of color she recommended planting foxgloves, pansies, snapdragons and larkspur now as well as poppies which also provide edible seeds after they bloom and calendula and violas which have edible flowers. Renee's also offers an extensive collection of sweet pea varieties for fragrance in your garden.

Renee sprinkled her presentation with cooking suggestions as well as growing tips. One tip that she shared was growing leafy crops like lettuce, kale, chard and spinach as "cut and come again plantings." To do this the seedlings are allowed to grow very close together and cut back for eating when they are 3-4" tall, leaving about an inch of growth at the bottom to come back for the next cutting. A cultural practice that she highly recommended was planting cover crops to "improve your soil, add tilth and provide habitat for beneficials." Renee also told us that lack of adequate fertilization is one of the most common issues that she sees in annual gardens. They fertilize their trial plants about once a month through the growing season with Sustane organic fertilizer.

A recording of Renee Shepherd's presentation is available on the Western Hort [YouTube](#). You can get more recipes and growing tips from her latest book, *The Renee's Garden Cookbook: Recipes and Advice for Growing*, available on their [website](#) along with all of the seeds that she mentioned. Renee is offering a 15%, one-time use, discount to Western Hort members, enter Promo Code: WHS15.

~ Janet Hoffmann

28 YEARS AGO

Western Hort met on October 13, 1993 to hear a talk by “Lucy Tolmach from Filoli, on *American Gardens of the Early 20th Century*.” Dinner with Lucy before the meeting “at Capriccio’s Restaurant across from Chef Chu’s” must have been a hot ticket because for the first time there is a note that seating is “Limited to 16.”

The following week, on Monday, October 18th, WHS co-hosted a program with Cal Hort at the CA Academy of Sciences featuring Nori and Sandra Pope, “current caretakers of Hadspen House, Castle Cary, England. This garden was once owned by Penelope Hobhouse and she wrote about it extensively in *The Country Garden*. Their concept of monochromal planting heightens the dramatic impact of what they call *plant paintings*.” The title of their talk was *Beyond Colour – Painterly Art of Planting*.

A special honor was noted: “Dick Dunmire, a longtime editor at Sunset and member of WHS was recently honored by the Garden Writers Association of America. He received the Symposium Committee’s special recognition award.”

Since Elizabeth Garbett was on vacation, the October Plant Notes were written by my dad, Ed Carman. I have to admit that Elizabeth’s write-ups conveyed more humor and personality. (Sorry Dad! –NLS)

Albert Wilson brought a selection of branches/flowering spikes suitable for dried arrangements, all of which might be considered invasive or inappropriate plantings: *Acanthus mollis* “The leaf of this plant has been used since Grecian times in building decorations.” *Eucalyptus globulus*, “This ‘Tasmanian Blue Gum’ should only be planted on a ten acre property”; *Ailanthus altissima*, “It is the tree that ‘Grows in Brooklyn’. The female trees produce great clusters of reddish fruits.”

Faith Duhring “showed a branch of *Diospyros virginia*, a perfect miniature of the Hachiya persimmon less than one inch in diameter...Fruit of this American native is barely edible after several frosts...Ebony wood is obtained from a species of the persimmon.”

“Sherry Austin brought a *Malvaviscus arboreus*, Turks Cap. There is some question as to whether this is the correct name. This plant has pink flowers which hang down while the Turks Cap has red flowers which stand up.”

Betsy Clebsch showed a *Salvia puberula*, to 5’ with cerise-magenta flowers, *Origanum herrenhausen*, “a tight clump with flowering stems spreading to 4’ across”, ‘Cymbaline’, a David Austin rose “a very large spreader with very double flowers”, *Cynoglossum amabile*, ‘Chinese Forget-me-not’ and *Callirhoe involucrata tenuissima*, “a very low growing ground cover that does well in part shade.”

“Dorothy Rodal seems to be on a slight berry binge!” She brought in *Ampelopsis brevipedunculata* ‘Elegans’, a “deciduous vine with white lacey variegation and a pink tinge to the new growth, teal blue berries in the fall”; *Euonymus europaeus* ‘Red Cap’, “bears red or pink berry-like fruits which split open to show bright orange arils”, *Solanum dulcamara*, “This climber...has clusters of small purple bells. The fruit are white when first formed, turning to red in the fall. All parts are poisonous.” *Viburnum wrightii*, “some fall color and clusters of shiny bright red berries at the ends of the branches.” And finally, *Leycesteria formosa*, “Upright growth to six feet with drooping panicles of claret-colored bracts. Reddish-purple berries develop in the fall and are carried into the winter.”

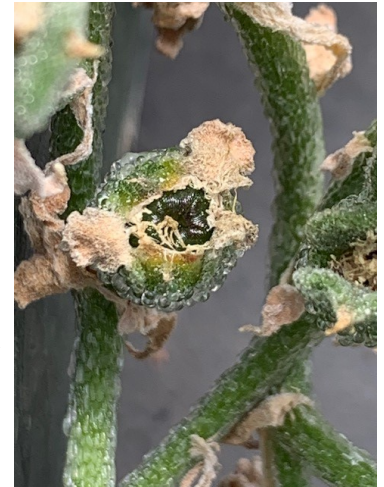
~Nancy Schramm

SEPTEMBER PLANT SHARE

Nancy Schramm, Gilroy shared:



Mesembryanthemum crystallinum (Crystalline Ice Plant) - Nancy started this edible South African succulent by seed on April 27th. It took a couple of weeks to germinate. It has a very low growth habit, growing only 4" tall x 20" wide. The leaves are 1.5" long x 1" wide. It has cool looking white flowers. The leaves and stems are edible and have a lemony tangy flavor. The leaves are really juicy. It is nice, tasty and refreshing in a salad. She's showing this cool looking edible plant in honor of our speaker (Renee Shepherd) tonight. She will collect the seeds from these plants and then might try growing them for the Heirloom Expo.



Bougainvillea – Nancy was asked by Andy Mariani to propagate this orange bougainvillea because he loves the color. Nancy took tip and heel cuttings on June 23rd, wounded them by cutting them at an angle with very sharp shears and used 2 different hormone treatments (Hormex #1 and Dip & Grow 1:10 ratio) before putting them into pots with sand and perlite. She then cut the bottom of a 1 gallon jug and put it over half of them. The extra humidity



made a big difference. All the cuttings rooted but the ones that were under the jugs had twice the root volume. The rooted cuttings were then potted up to 2" or 3" pots. On September 3rd she transplanted them to gallon pots. They were 4" tall but are now 1' tall.

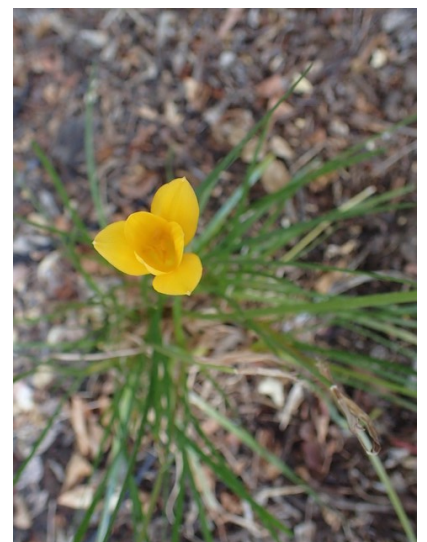


Nancy's mystery plant –

Nancy believes this is a *Mesembryanthemum* and would love to know the species or variety if anyone recognizes it. The orange flowers on this ice plant have wider petals than *M. crystallinum*. The succulent leaves are small and green.

Janet Hoffmann, Campbell shared:

Zephyranthes citrina (Yellow Rain Lily) – This bulb from the Yucatan Peninsula (Mexico) grows in full sun to part shade. It gets to be 10" tall and since it self-pollinates (apomictic) it should easily re-seed but Janet's never has. It could be something to do with not having the right environmental conditions for producing seed. It tolerates poor soils and is drought tolerant although Janet thinks it flowers better with some water. Janet waters hers year round and gives it about one gallon every week via drip. The leaf blades are very narrow and bright yellow flowers start appearing in the summer.



PLANT SHARE CONTINUED:

More from Janet:



Clematis ligusticifolia (Virgin's Bower, Creek Clematis) – This native vine grows best in partially shaded locations and climbs happily to up to 20', often over other plants or trees. Its leaves are 3-lobed, and generally grow groups of three to five leaflets, the largest leaves on the plant normally being between 3 and 5 centimeters in size. It can be distinguished from the similar *Clematis lasiantha*, Chaparral Clematis, because it has smaller, multiple flowers on each stem where as *lasiantha* has one flower on each stalk, or at most three. Virgin's Bower is also called Creek Clematis because it is more likely to be found along streams or in other wet places, whereas the *lasiantha* tolerates more open, drier places. It also blooms later

than *lasiantha*, from June through Sept. Janet's is blooming now and it climbs on the netting on a fence as well as the Fringe Tree behind it.

Saponaria x lempergii 'Max Frei' (Soapwort) – This low growing hybrid gets to be 1' tall x 2' wide. It grows in full sun in lean soil. Growing it in well-drained soil is recommended but Janet has been successful growing it in soil with poor drainage. Prolific small 5-petaled pink flowers bloom from June to October.



Mystery solved!

Salvia chamelaeagnea (Rough Blue Sage) – Judy Wong ID'd this herbaceous looking sage that Janet has had for 10 years but didn't know what it was. Western Hills Nursery introduced this native South African perennial in 1991. It grows in full sun and can get to be 5' tall and wide. However, it has only gotten to be 3' tall and wide for Janet. Clusters of light blue and white flowers start appearing in July and bloom through September. The green serrated small leaves have a fairly strong scent. Weekly watering is needed to get it going but once established you could get by watering it every 2-3 weeks. Janet drip irrigates hers once a week. She prunes it hard to 3"- 4" from the ground every winter. It is hardy to 25°.



Judy Wong shared some plants from her visit to San Francisco Botanical Garden:

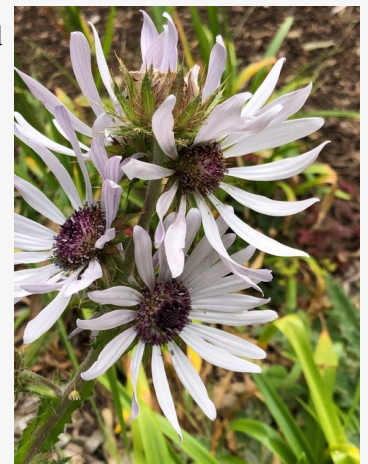


Haemanthus coccineus (Paint Brush Lily, Blood Lily) – This bulb from the Cape was in full bloom with many red flowers (actually spathe valves) blooming. Both the genus and species have red or blood references to them. Upon seeing them Judy noted that there were no leaves and wondered why they had been removed. However, the 2 or 3 strap-like leaves normally show up after flowering and are rarely seen while this plant is flowering. This is called hysteranthly.

Blooming in the South African Garden section:

Berkheya purpurea 'Zulu Warrior' – This South African perennial looks like it should be an osteospermum. It grows in full sun in well-drained soil.

It gets to be 2' tall and wide and has very prickly dark green leaves which doesn't make it very touch friendly. However, the light lavender daisy-like flowers with dark centers that begin appearing in summer make up for this shortcoming. It is becoming more popular because it is drought tolerant. Seeds can be readily found and ordered. Judy has had no luck growing it.



PLANT SHARE CONTINUED:



Hibiscus trionum (Flower of an Hour) - Judy was very surprised to learn the genus for this plant, but it makes sense once you study the flower. This low growing perennial grows in full sun in rich well-drained soil. It gets to be 1' tall x wide. The 2" white or pale yellow petals have dark maroon markings toward the center and contrast nicely with the orange tipped stamens. However the flowers are very short lived and only last a few hours. The leaves are deeply divided into 3 or 5 lobes. Judy hasn't had luck growing it but Daisy Mah has grown it in Sacramento and considers it a "weedy plant" since it reseeds easily. It is drought tolerant and frost tender.

Amaryllis belladonna

There were many different colors in full bloom, among them deep pink, white and very dark ones. Don Mahoney gave one possible explanation of the huge collection of different colors to Judy. It seems that Bill the Bulb Baron

(Bill Welch) from Watsonville gave a program at CalHort and the bulbs that were not sold were donated to the Botanical Garden.



Daiswa polyphylla (Paris polyphylla) – This is Judy's favorite plant. She first saw it in England at Christopher Lloyds' garden but bought the plant in Oregon. She had it 10 years and although it bloomed frequently, it didn't do it every year. Since it needed regular watering that she was not willing to give, she ended up donating it to the botanical garden. So now Judy goes there to visit it.

The Dahlia garden, which is located behind the Conservatory, is in full bloom right now and was eye candy for Judy. Her favorite one was Bumble Rumble.



~Ana Muir

WHS Scholarships

Western Horticultural Society is pleased to announce the creation of two new \$1000.00 horticultural scholarships to be given to two inspired, deserving students who show a keen commitment to their horticultural studies. The first is the Richard & Bracey Tiede Scholarship. This will be given to a student who wants to make a difference in the horticultural world. The other is a general WHS Scholarship to be given to an equally deserving student. We plan to open up the field to all Bay Area horticultural students. We need help in contacting schools to notify students about these scholarships and in early December would like three additional members of WHS to sit on the evaluation committee to determine the recipients of these two scholarships. Scholarship information and the application is available on our website. You can use this link: <https://www.westernhort.org/scholarships>. Please contact Grace Tsang for further information. 650-391-4654 or e-mail cosang@gmail.com

Upcoming Meetings

November 10th: **Kenton Seth**, garden designer and author, Fruita, CO, *Crevice Gardens: Stuck in the Cracks*

December 8th: **Lynn Chan and David Eger**, avid gardeners and travelers, Burlingame, CA, *Gardens to Lure You Out of California*

January 12th: **Del McComb**, horticulturalist, consultant, designer and co-owner of *Blossoms Farm*, Corralitos, CA, *Growing Gorgeous Gardens from the Ground Up*

February 9th: **Andy Mariani and Charlie Olson**, longtime Santa Clara Valley orchardists, **with Robin Chapman**, author of *The Lost Orchards of Silicon Valley*, moderator, *Olson and Mariani: Farming in The Valley of Heart's Delight*

March 9th: **Kipp McMichael**, web developer and passionate horticulturalist, Berkeley, CA, *Succulents at Large: Designing with Larger Succulents*

April 13th: **Patricia Rain, Vanilla Queen**, author, educator, culinary historian and owner of *The Vanilla Company*, Santa Cruz, CA, *Vanilla: The Botany, The History, and The Culture*

May 11th: **Dave Muffly**, arborist, horticulturalist and ecological engineer, Santa Barbara, CA, *Resiliency: Choosing Trees for Climate Adaptation in Coastal California*

Plant Share

A fun part of our Zoom get-togethers is seeing what is happening in your gardens. The ability to send photos of the plants that you want to share is one benefit of the virtual meeting format. Submit your photos of plants that you wish to share along with the botanical and common name (if you know them) to info@westernhort.org by Sunday October 10th. Either send or be prepared to speak online about the plant's geographical location, exposure, soil, water and other growth requirements. If you have plants that you would like help identifying or want some cultural advice on, feel free to submit those also.

HORTICULTURAL HAPPENINGS

California Horticultural Society will be continuing to share their virtual presentations with us this fall. The next one is Oct 18th at 6:30 pm via Zoom, *South African Amaryllid Geophytes for California* with Ken Blackford, a long-time hobbyist gardener with a special interest in cacti, succulents, and other xeric plants. He will be discussing *Amaryllis*, *Boophone*, *Cyrtanthus*, and perhaps a few others with information about growing them in California.

California Horticulture Society is still accepting seeds for their annual Seed Exchange. To share seeds please place them in a paper envelope with the botanical name on the outside and send them to: Dave Tivol, 130 Locksunart Way #2, Sunnyvale CA 94087- 4666 by November 30, 2021. The seed list will be published in January 2022. You do not have to donate seeds in order to participate but donations are always welcome.

More information about California Horticultural Society and their programs at <https://calhortsociety.org/>.

California Native Plant Society, Santa Clara Valley Chapter, Native Plant Sale, Saturday, October 9, outdoors at the Dana Center in Hidden Villa. The sale will include Grassroots Ecology Nursery and other vendors plus a member-collected seed exchange table.

As the nursery area is too small to allow for social distancing while browsing, all plant purchases from the CNPS nursery and Grassroots Ecology must be made **online in advance**. **You will select your entry time** when you make your purchases. Your plant order will be prepared by volunteers and be ready for pickup at your entry time on October 9. When you arrive to pick up your plants, you will have the opportunity to purchase books, posters, t-shirts and other items from some of your favorite vendors, who will be onsite.

All attendees will need to wear masks; entry will be timed and ticketed to limit the number of people present at any one time and keep the event safe for everyone. For the latest information about the sale, please visit www.cnps-scv.org.

Pacific Horticulture, Oct 19th, 5-5:45pm via Zoom, *Garden Allies, The Insects, Birds, and Other Animals That Keep Your Garden Beautiful and Thriving*, a presentation about her book of the same title by Frédérique Lavoipierre. Free for Pacific Hort members, \$10 for others. For more information and to register go to:

<https://www.pacifichorticulture.org/upcoming-events/>.

STROLLING AROUND THE INTERNET

UC IPM Wildlife Pest Identification Tool Here is a new tool to help identify the critter in your yard!

<https://www2.ipm.ucanr.edu/wildlife-pest-identification/?src=blog48894>

Fires and Fynbos, This YouTube video is Prof. Tony Rebelo speaking about the catastrophic fires worldwide and specifically about the Fynbos (the small belt of shrubland or heathland vegetation located in the Western and Eastern Cape provinces) succession of plant regrowth in the Cape Town area of South Africa. Not all fire is bad.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZwV0ii3ctQ0>

Lee Valley YouTube on **Vegetables to Plant in September**. If you want more on this topic after Renee Shepherd's presentation watch this one: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C5dVKVGs4Bs&t=8s>

Home Garden Seed Association has a listing of "How To Grow Vegetables" articles on their website. Check it out here: <https://www.homegardenseedassociation.com/vegetables>

University of Florida offers an article about different ways to stake trees.

<https://hort.ifas.ufl.edu/woody/staking.shtml>

Hello WHS members,

Our new year is just starting. WHS has a great list of speakers for the year. Don't miss any updates. Please submit your renewal and payment using the Membership form found on our Membership page and mail to **WHS PO Box 166, Mountain View, CA 94042**. Membership forms were also mailed out the end of August to those who have not renewed. You can also pay online. Please go to our membership page on our website

<https://www.westernhort.org/membership> and complete the information in Part 1 and 2 in the Pay by Credit Card section. Thank you in advance to everyone who has renewed their membership. Any questions, please contact membership@westernhort.org

Officers and Board Members:

President: Janet Hoffmann

Vice President: Grace Tsang

Secretary : Leslie Dean

Corresponding Secretary: Rosalie Shephard

Treasurer: Jennifer Doniach

Other Board Members: Carol Dahout, Carol Moholt, Michael Craib

Volunteer Committees and Responsibilities:

Zoom Host: Carol Dahout

Email and website maintenance: Ursula Haschke

Publicity and Outreach: Grace Tsang

Membership: Ursula Haschke

Speaker Program Committee: Leslie Dean (chair),

Nancy Schramm, Judy Wong, Glenda Jones

Newsletter Editor: Kathy Anberg

Scholarships: Grace Tsang and Jennifer Doniach

About Membership in Western Hort:

Membership Rates: A one-year membership (Sep-Aug) includes an e-mail copy of this newsletter and admittance to all of our monthly meetings. Regular membership is \$35, Family membership for two or more members at the same address is \$50, and a discounted rate for students is \$20. To receive a print copy of this newsletter by mail add \$10 to the membership fee listed above. Please visit the Pac Hort page for more information or to join Pacific Horticulture Society, for whom we are now a sponsoring organization, go to: pacifichorticulture.org.

To join or renew visit our website at: <https://www.westernhort.org/membership> You may pay online with a credit card or print form and mail with your check to the contact us address below.

To contact us: Please send email to: info@westernhort.org or snail mail to: PO Box 166, Mountain View, CA 94042

SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY!

Our February program, a discussion between Andy Mariani and Charlie Olson, will be a question and answer format. Members are asked to submit their questions for the speakers at least a week before the meeting to: info@westernhort.org . Put your thinking caps on and get those unanswered questions asked! February 1st, 2022 is the deadline, but send in your questions anytime!



PO Box 166
Mountain View, CA 94042
First Class Mail
VISIT US AT WESTERNHORT.ORG

Meeting location : October 13th

Zoom Meeting via internet

Meeting starts at 7:15 pm.

Would you like to **sponsor a lecture** or suggest a speaker for the WHS that is of particular interest to you?

It would be much appreciated!

Please call Leslie Dean at 650-966-8364.

Newsletter Submissions

The newsletter publishes on the first of the month. **Note: deadline for submission for the next newsletter is the 22nd of October.** Submissions after this date will likely appear in the next month's newsletter. Send submissions to: Kjanberg@gmail.com or snail mail to Kathy Anberg, 1332 Peggy Ct. Campbell, CA 95008-6342