

## **DECEMBER 2022 MEETING**

**December 14th, 7:30pm**

We will be meeting in-person at the Garden House in Shoup Park. Attendees are asked to wear masks while in the building. If you are feeling the least bit ill, please do not attend. Dress warmly as we will have some open doors and fans running for ventilation. Check the WHS website for Covid updates. *The meeting room officially opens to members and the public at 7pm but if you can arrive by 6:30pm to help with set-up, your assistance would be greatly appreciated.* Meetings are free for members, non-member in-person attendees \$10. See page 7 of this newsletter for information about joining WHS.

### **SPEAKER: KRISTIN JACOB**

### **TOPIC: A BOTANICAL ART JOURNEY**

Kristin started to draw plants at the age of twelve, inspired by the native species of California, which remain her favorite subjects. She received an M.A. from the Royal College of Art in London in 1981. Her award-winning art has graced educational posters, numerous journals, several books and commercial packaging. She also self-publishes a line of greeting cards and fine art prints. In 2013, Kristin was awarded a Milley for creative achievement in the visual arts by the Mill Valley Arts Commission. In 2018 she was the invited Featured Artist at the Mill Valley Fall Arts Festival. Kirsten also does garden consultation and was recently made a Fellow of the California Native Plant Society.



Kristin will give an overview of the rich history of botanical art and illustration. She will describe the evolution of her own art, which was inspired by the work of earlier masters in the field. She will bring examples for display and sale.

website: [www.kristinjacob.com](http://www.kristinjacob.com)

### **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

“Roses need no help from humans. They crop up in nature and can propagate themselves largely unimpeded by our follies. ... they have exploited us as much as we them; despite a reputation for high maintenance, they could thrive in a posthuman world. The rose has been co-opted by humans as a symbol of beauty [and] love .. We restrain their natural vigour: they have been tamed, genetically engineered, and commercialized.”

<https://blog.orwellfoundation.com/review-of-rebecca-solnits/>

May your December days in gardens, perhaps far from home and on other projects, be fulfilling. We are looking forward to our in-person December meeting featuring botanical art and illustration, and we will be having a little holiday celebration (keep reading for details).

If you can carve out a little time, please consider helping on a task to help our organization. Speak to a board member. There is something to suit your inclinations.

~ Grace Tsang & Meri-Beth Bird

## COOKIE EXCHANGE AT THE DECEMBER MEETING

The December meeting will be an In-Person Holiday celebration. We will not have the potluck meal of old due to COVID's continued presence. However, we will have holiday décor, a cookie exchange and to recognize the spirit of the holidays some lucky attendees will win a festive item to take home. Please bring some of your favorite holiday cookies to exchange with fellow members. We will provide tongs and plastic bags (or you could bring your own reusable container) to take your cookie selections home with you. Please do not eat in the meeting room. You are welcome to take your selections outside and eat on the porch.

The plant sale table will be up and running so bring a little cash and take home that special plant, book, or garden item. Just in time for the gift giving season! And come celebrate our latest Founders' Award recipient!



## PLANT SALE TABLE

Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus, and there is also a PLANT SALE TABLE!! The popular plant sale table is back just in time for our December meeting! Select from member propagated plants as well as a variety of succulents for sale. If you are weeding your garden bookshelves to make room for the new garden books you are sure to receive this holiday season, please consider donating the books you no longer want to the Plant Sale table for the enjoyment of all. Please identify plants with botanical names and culture tips.

Bring cash or checks as you are sure to find a plant calling your name. All money collected goes to support WHS programs and the scholarship fund. A special thanks to Carol Dahout for becoming the manager of the table!! If you would enjoy assisting Carol with the plant sale table she welcomes the extra help. Just speak with her or any board member at a meeting.

## WHS SCHOLARSHIPS

Western Horticultural Society is please to announce two \$1000.00 horticultural scholarships to be given to two inspired, deserving students who show a keen commitment to their horticultural studies (including high school seniors and college students). 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.

The purpose of this scholarship is to support those who wish to deepen their horticultural knowledge. This form is to be used by horticulture students to apply for a scholarship from the Western Horticultural Society. To apply, you must have completed a minimum of 8 units in your horticulture program (or be a high school senior with 2-3 relevant classes completed) and have a minimum GPA of 2.5. Please submit this application and the requested materials by January 15, 2023.

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1E\\_M9tAPhC\\_LJ9Or8X5sM59GnmkBHfPyzAz\\_-hLu03g8/viewform?edit\\_requested=true](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1E_M9tAPhC_LJ9Or8X5sM59GnmkBHfPyzAz_-hLu03g8/viewform?edit_requested=true)

## Upcoming Meetings

**January 11: Rebecca Sweet, Refresh Your Garden Design: Simple Strategies to Wake Up a Weary Garden.**

**Note: This will be a Zoom only meeting.**

**February 8: Eric Hsu, Of Heartbreak & Flowers: The Domoto Family & Their Horticultural Legacy in the United States.**



*Western Horticultural Society  
Wishes all our members  
A  
Happy and Joyous Holiday Season!*

## NOVEMBER SPEAKER NOTES

This year's Louisa Beck Guest Lecture was about the extraordinary biodiversity of our state, delivered by Professor Lynne Trulio of San Jose State University. There is a nice link between Lynne and Louisa, in that Lynne's first student at the university worked for a number of years in the same lab at NASA's Ames Research Center as did Louisa. Lynne has dedicated much of her career to burrowing owls, that charismatic little owl that we see more rarely these days compared to just a few decades ago. Her lecture was an overview of the "what," "why," and "where" of biodiversity in California and the "how" of resisting its decline.

Though it may come as no surprise that the state is a hotspot of biodiversity, there is actually a formal definition (Conservation International) of "hotspot," which has two parts: that there live at least 1500 endemic vascular plant species and at least 70% of primary native vegetation has been lost. There are 36 recognized such areas worldwide. California easily fits this definition, with over 2,000 endemic plant species (about 40% of its 5,500 plant species). A few birds, about 20 mammals, and 32% of about 28,000 insect species are also endemic, meaning that they are found nowhere else in the world. At least 75% of native habitat supporting these endemics has been lost over the centuries of colonization, industrialization and urbanization.

Lynne showed a map of the California floristic province comprising five biomes: conifer forests, oak woodlands, grasslands, chaparral and deserts. Vernal pools and other wetlands found in grasslands are particularly important in supporting endemics (such as *Blennosperma nanum* and *Limnanthes vincularis*). Other species she mentioned in this vein were *Dudleya setchellii*, an endangered succulent found in serpentine grasslands; *Eriophyllum latilobum* (the San Mateo woolly sunflower) in oak woodlands and serpentine soils; *Eschscholzia hypociodes* (the San Benito poppy) and *Sidalcea hickmanii*.

She addressed the question of why there are so many endemics in the state by describing the theory of island biogeography, a key theory in conservation biology. The theory pertains not just to areas of land completely encircled by water, but any habitat of any size that is mostly surrounded by inhospitable conditions. In general, environmental conditions that separate populations from one another set the stage for speciation. The Sierra cause California to be an "island," since these high mountains create a barrier to organism migration, as well as helping to create the atmospheric conditions that generate our special Mediterranean climate.

Ultimately, California is a species refuge and a source of biodiversity. Habitat loss; poaching; overfishing; non-native invasive species such as feral pigs, *Spartina alterniflora*, domestic cats and European grasses; and climate change are all forces that are decimating this biodiversity, with more than 300 species endangered in the state.

Lynne listed both global and local ways to resist biodiversity loss. Global efforts include:

- empower and educate women worldwide to slow population growth rate and improve life span and quality.
- reduce consumption (energy, water, meat).
- protect plants in seed banks. The California Botanical Garden has the largest seed bank (over 2,000 species) for native CA species.
- protect and manage natural areas in perpetuity. An example is Governor Newsom's commitment to conserve 30 by 30 (30% of California's 100 million acres by 2030).
- invest in local land trusts and open space organizations.
- control invasive species. An example is the Invasive Spartina Project [www.spartina.org](http://www.spartina.org) that has succeeded in a greater than 85% reduction in the San Francisco Bay.
- commit to science-based management of conserved lands for biodiversity with a careful balance with other uses. An example is the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project with over 15,000 acres of former salt pond returned to tidal salt marsh – the second largest wetland restoration project in the US after The Everglades.

For local action toward these objectives, several resources were offered:

- In gardens, use native species. Whether cultivars are as good as habitat resources is an open question.
- <https://www.valleywater.org/water-conservation-programs>
- <https://www.sccgov.org/sites/osp/pages/ccenergy.aspx>
- <https://savesfbay.org/get-involved/become-a-volunteer>
- <https://savesfbay.org/get-involved/take-action>

At the tail end of the program, the discussion moved from plants to animals. Since Lynne has studied burrowing owls for over thirty years, people were curious about their current status here in Santa Clara Valley. Burrowing owls in the valley are not doing well. A captive breeding program is underway to try and establish new populations in the south part of the county as they do pretty well in agricultural areas. Santa Clara Valley will probably lose them as a breeding



## SPEAKER NOTES CONTINUED

species. However, the county includes plentiful habitat for migratory burrowing owls wintering here from elsewhere. A question came from the audience about using cattle, sheep and or goats to restore ecosystems. This was a reference to a concept called holistic rangeland management, or “planned grazing,” a set of methods that has both vocal opponents and proponents. Finally, news of the recent appearance of beavers in Palo Alto was met with smiles. Thank you Professor Trulio for a most interesting and informative presentation.

~ Jennifer Dungan

## NOVEMBER PLANT SHARE

Nancy Schramm from Gilroy brought 4 types of Oregano:

Origanum – this perennial grows in full sun to part sun (zones 7-11) in well-drained soil. The scented leaves can be fuzzy or smooth, and some species and selections are popular herbs for cooking. The dried flowers can be used to make great dried flower arrangements.



***Origanum dictamnus*** (Dittany of Crete) – This aromatic shrub is from the Isle of Crete. It gets to be 1’ tall x 2’ wide and has very pretty 6”-8” light pink bracts that appear in the summer. Fuzzy gray leaves are covered by white-wooly hairs.

Photo credit: My Garden Life and Mountain Valley Growers



***Origanum dayi*** (Desert Oregano – has white funnel shaped flowers. This photo shows the spent flower bracts at the top. The leaves are much smaller than most other origanums.

*Origanum dayi*

***Origanum vulgare*** ‘Ed Carman’ – Digging Dog Nursery collected and named this very floriferous form from a batch of seedlings offered for sale by Ed Carman when he operated Carman’s Nursery on Mozart Ave. It gets to be 3’ tall and wide. It has deep pink blossoms with purple bracts. It is available for purchase from Digging Dog Nursery.



*Origanum vulgare*  
‘Ed Carman’



**Origanum seedlings** – Nancy is not sure where they came from but they are really pretty.

Seedling on the left has a faint purple tinge on the new growth that will support next years flowers.

Seedling on the right has been blooming for months as you can see from the lengthy, still colorful flowering bracts.



## NOVEMBER PLANT SHARE CONTINUED



Judy Wong from Menlo Park brought:

**Lachenalia/Polyxena ensifolia** - This South African bulb grows in sandy or clay soils (zones 9-11) and blooms in the fall. It starts growing with our winter rains. It has 2 lance-shaped prostrate leaves where the flowers emerge. The flowers can be white, pink or mauve. Judy thinks the flowers are pleasantly fragrant but some members present thought the fragrance was somewhat odd. Polyxena was moved to genus Lachenalia in 2004 but you can still often find it under its old name.

~ Ana Muir

## 28 YEARS AGO

On Wednesday, December 14, 1994 WHS met at the Garden House in Shoup Park for the annual holiday potluck. It was a “social and celebrative party. Your family and guests are welcome!” For those wanting to participate in a gift exchange, the gifts were to cost no more than \$5. “Again, Gerda (Isenberg) will provide table centers which will be given as door prizes. Elizabeth Garbett will, as usual, make a wreath to be given as the first gift. There will be a box for donations of canned food which will be taken to the Community Service Agency in Mountain View.”

An announcement was made for the April 26-30, 1995 San Francisco Landscape Garden Show theme: “*A Garden Party*”.

And finally, there was a message from the newsletter editor, Dorothy Rodal, about the need for a new editor: “For the past three years I have had the pleasure of being the newsletter editor, and enjoyed it greatly. I have had the opportunity of talking to many of you whom I might otherwise never have met, and I always knew what was going on. It’s not a difficult or time-consuming job and I hope that you will consider trying it. David and I are planning a little later this year to move to Portland, Oregon and start a nursery called Exuberant Gardens (we decided against Tidy Gardens). My life is now filled with trying to fit my unruly house and garden into some realtor’s idea of almost acceptable. It is not an easy or pleasurable task. But it is going to consume me until it is finished and I can move on to the next part of my life. I will have extra bedrooms. I hope I will have guests. If you would like the joyous job of editor call Roz Bray. – D.R.”

~ Nancy Schramm

## GET INVOLVED

We are actively looking for a few new board members including a Vice President. Yes, to your question, “If I was on the board in the past, can I join again?” We enjoy having new board members as well as members who have served in the past. It makes for a well rounded board. Volunteer and get to know other WHS members and keep our organization growing.

Available Positions:

**Vice president:** In addition to board member duties below, the vice president runs the general meeting or board meetings when the President is unavailable. Helps the President as needed and updates new board members on duties and functions of the organization.

**Board Members:** Position involves regular attendance at monthly meetings Sept – June and regular attendance at bi-monthly board meetings as well as helping on committees as needed to carry out Western Hort activities.

**Plant Sale Table Assistant:** Set up and help with the sale of donated plants at the meeting.

If you have an interest in helping in any one of these capacities, or feel you can help in any other way, feel free to e-mail us at [info@westernhort.org](mailto:info@westernhort.org) or speak to any of the current board members at our meetings.

## HORTICULTURAL HAPPENINGS

**Gamble Gardens**, Wintry Trees, December 10th, 10 am to 12 pm, Free guided garden tours focusing on the over two dozen distinct tree species in their garden. Register for a timed entry at 10, 10:30 and 11 am. There will be a nature activity table for the children. Located at 1431 Waverley Street, Palo Alto. Check their website for full details. <https://www.gamblegarden.org/event/dec-second-sat-2022/>

**Bancroft Gardens**, Garden of D'Lights runs through January 8th. Come and see the 2.5 acre garden lit up by thousands of lights. For ticket information go to: <https://www.ruthbancroftgarden.org/garden-of-dlights/>

## STROLLING AROUND THE INTERNET

**New on YouTube: The meeting with Charlie Olson and Andy Mariani on Oct. 12, 2022**

[https://youtu.be/DI\\_Kc9f4U60](https://youtu.be/DI_Kc9f4U60)

Also available on our WHS site is Robin Chapman's Zoom presentation from Dec. 2020 on the history of California apricots

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G8nIPPGrvu8&t=30s>

**November meeting recording:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pv0vuZ4TwEQ&t=1942s>

**Did you know? WHS has a Facebook page!** Check out our Facebook page to see photos from events, upcoming events and activities as well as postings from other horticultural groups, and even some history. Connect and keep up with our gardening community.

<https://www.facebook.com/westernhort>

**A note about WHS meeting recordings:** Future meetings will be recorded and made available to the best of our ability. Anyone with suggestions or technical expertise in recording and hybrid meetings, feel free to step forward to help at the meetings or contact [janet@hoffmann.net](mailto:janet@hoffmann.net).

### Officers and Board Members:

Co-Presidents: Grace Tsang & Meri-Beth Bird

Vice President: Open Position

Secretary : Leslie Dean

Corresponding Secretary: Rosalie Shepherd

Treasurer: Jennifer Doniach

Other Board Members: Carol Dahout, Carol Moholt, Michael Craib, Janet Hoffmann, Jennifer Dungan and Eva Huala

### Volunteer Committees and Responsibilities:

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, Meri-Beth Bird, Rosalie Shepherd, Nancy Schramm, Janet Hoffmann and Jennifer Doniach

Plant Sale Table: Carol Dahout

Meeting Tech: Jennifer Donich, Janet Hoffmann,

John Hammerschmidt & Grace Tsang

Welcome Table: Meri-Beth Bird & Eva Huala

### 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](http://pacifichorticulture.org).

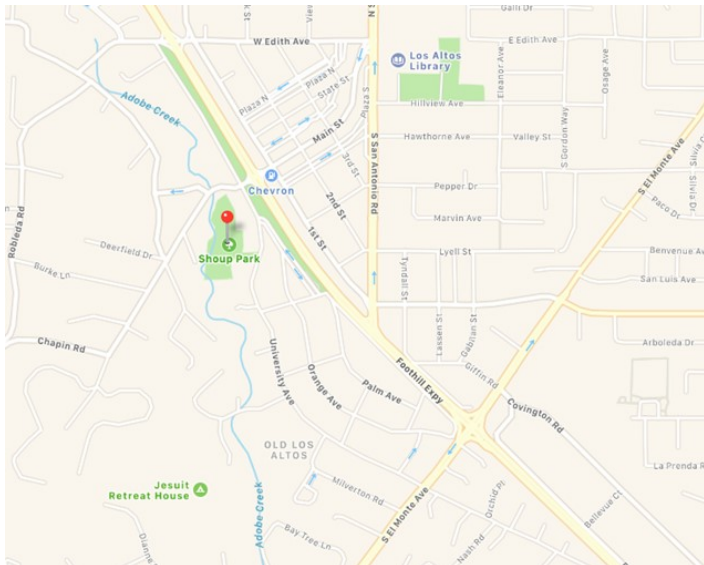
**To join or renew visit our website at:** <https://www.westernhort.org/membership> You may pay online with a credit card or print form and mail with your check to the contact us address below.

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





PO Box 166  
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First Class Mail  
VISIT US AT WESTERNHORT.ORG



**Meeting Date : December 14th**  
In Person at Shoup Park Garden House, 400 University Ave., Los Altos  
Remember your mask!  
Meeting starts at 7:30 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 December.** Submissions after this date will likely appear in the next month's newsletter. Send submissions to: [Kjanberg@gmail.com](mailto:Kjanberg@gmail.com) or snail mail to Kathy Anberg, 1332 Peggy Ct. Campbell, CA 95008-6342