

JANUARY 2021 MEETING

January 13th, 7:15 on Zoom via Internet

Our meeting this month will once again be a Zoom presentation. [Register for January meeting on Eventbrite](#) by clicking this link: [Eventbrite](#).

Eventbrite sends you a confirmation email with the Zoom login-information.

There is no cost for members but visitors will be asked to pay \$10. **Please remember to save the Eventbrite confirmation email with the link to get into the Zoom meeting.** If you don't see this confirmation, check your spam folder. Also ignore any references to tickets for this virtual event. Scroll through the entire confirmation email for the part that lists a Zoom link. That link and associated passwords are what you will need to access the meeting. One suggestion is to copy this into your calendar when you receive it so it will be readily accessible on the night of the meeting. To test your Zoom connection you can log on anytime after 7:00 pm. (The meeting will start at 7:15pm). For help on setting up and using Zoom visit our resource page, [ZOOM ASSISTANCE](#).

Speaker: Rizaniño “Riz” Reyes, Owner of RHR Horticulture, Designer and Lecturer

Topic: Houseplants: The Hottest Horticultural Trend

Houseplants have surged in popularity over the last few years as urban populations grow, fostering a strong desire to reconnect with nature in the home. Beginners see the trends and aim to follow, while experienced gardeners reconnect with early passions and fond memories of windowsill plantings. Join plantsman and horticulturist Riz Reyes for a close and personal story of discovering tropical wonders from around the world. Learn from his mistakes and successes in growing, collecting and caring for the most popular and sought-after houseplants on the market today.



An early curiosity about fruits and flowers in his native Philippines and an obsession for rare and unusual plants at a very early age has resulted in a thriving horticultural career that involves gardening, teaching, designing and cut-flower growing. Riz Reyes is based near Seattle, Washington and is the owner of RHR Horticulture. He has his Bachelors in Environmental Horticulture and Urban Forestry from the University of Washington. He is currently the gardens manager for McMenamain's Anderson School, a part of a hospitality and microbrewery chain located in Bothell, WA. Riz is a recipient of the Emerging Horticultural Professional Award from the American Horticultural Society.

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Happy New Year to all of you! Let's hope that 2021 is a brighter year on the health front and that we will be able to meet in person once again at some point later in the year. In the meantime we have a wonderful slate of speakers coming up this spring. We are still waiting for a write-up for our April talk and it should be up on our website soon. You can read about our speaker lineup on our website at [speakers-events](#).

This month is our official annual business meeting. We will be asking those of you who attend to vote using the chat feature on Zoom for our upcoming board of directors. We are sorry to say that after 3 years on the board, Laurie Schofield, our corresponding secretary, will be stepping down. Laurie has not only been wonderful in sending thank you notes to all of our presenters and donors but also helped with getting the key and setting up for our meetings at the Los Altos Community Center. She has also supplied décor for our holiday parties the past several years. Laurie isn't going away from Western Hort and will still be helpful, I am sure, but we will miss her reasoned input at our board meetings.

We are looking for a replacement corresponding secretary or general board members. If you or anyone you know would be interested in joining the board, feel free to contact any board member to learn more about what is involved. We are still meeting virtually of course for now, but we probably will maintain at least a virtual option for our board meetings even when in-person events are again allowed. So please don't let the need to travel to meetings stop you from joining the board. Carol Moholt has generously agreed to stay on the board, at least for the time being, in spite of her move to New Mexico last summer.

If everyone steps up and does what they can then we can continue to be the healthy organization that we have been for so long. New board members always bring new ideas that keep us fresh and vibrant and it is a great way to get to know others and learn more about our horticultural community. This is my plea for some of you to step up and contribute to our organization in whatever way that you can. Feel free to reach out to me about ways that you can do so at info@westernhort.org.

~ Janet Hoffmann~

DECEMBER SPEAKER NOTES

Historical writer, Robin Chapman, entertained and enlightened us at our December meeting with anecdotes, historical information and photographs that she gleaned while researching her book: *California Apricots, The Lost Orchards of Silicon Valley*.

Robin grew up in Los Altos in one of the many apricot orchards that existed there in the 1950's. Her father bought the property in 1948 and built their house in the middle of the existing orchard. Elaine and her sister grew up with tending to the orchard and eating and preserving the fruit. This led to her more recent interest in the subject upon her return to the Bay area after a career as a journalist and reporter.

Robin's talk traced the history of apricots from their origins in China, to their travel along the Silk Road to the Middle East and then across the Mediterranean Sea to Spain. Father Junipero Serra apparently introduced the apricot to the mission orchards of California.

During the Gold Rush there was a growing demand in the state for fresh produce to augment the meat diets of the newcomers and produce from the missions started to be disseminated more widely. Some of the unsuccessful miners and other early settlers in the Santa Clara Valley started their own orchards to meet the growing demand.

The completion of the transcontinental railroad in 1869 opened up the market for California produce across the country. In order to ship fruit long distances, better preservation methods were needed. This need led to the growth of the canning industry in our area. One of our early entrepreneurs, Burrell Leonard, started a packing house in what is now Cupertino. Burrell sold the property in 1964 and it was developed into what was later called the Vallco Fashion Park.

During WWII much of the canned fruit was shipped overseas to feed our troops. At its agricultural height the valley had about 200,000 acres of orchards. There were actually about two times as many prune acres as apricots but Elaine chose to write mostly about the apricots because she has more personal history and affection for them.

Continued-

DECEMBER SPEAKER NOTES CONTINUED

Elaine completed her talk by bringing us up to the present. Some of the few remaining orchards are being preserved as heritage orchards near the Saratoga and Los Altos libraries. Another early orchardist, CJ Olson's last remaining acreage is still being maintained by his son Charlie as a heritage orchard for the City of Sunnyvale near the intersection of Mathilda Ave and El Camino Real. One other well know orchardist with remaining acreage in the area is the Mariani family, whose Andy's Orchard is still in business in Morgan Hill. For those of you who missed the talk a recording is available on our [Western Hort youtube](#).
~ Janet Hoffmann

In Memorium

Elaine Margaret Levine, one of our very early Western Hort members, number 76 to be exact, passed away on November 17th.

According her daughter Deva Luna, Elaine was an avid gardener, as well as writer and editor. She edited our reference book *Successful Vines for the Peninsula*. (as well as two volumes of Milpitas history). She was also an active member of the California Native Plant Society and Master Gardeners of Santa Clara County. She loved to do research and worked diligently on the MG Hot Line for more than a decade.

She and her husband restored the historic Fremont Older House in Saratoga and she supervised the restoration of the gardens. Taming this large historical property involved battling drought, clay, gophers, deer and rabbits, on steep hillsides for over 40 years, but she managed to wrestle it into a beautiful landscape. Many of us can relate to this quote from Deva, "She often said the list of dead and missing plants was far longer than the list of survivors!"

At home she had an outdoor propagation area, as well as raising seedlings in her basement (a heat mat was the source of a small home fire one day!). "She loved growing the unusual, ignoring the common, easily grown plants." All four of her daughters, Deva, Meg, Amy and Kay are also avid gardeners and beneficiaries of her propagation successes. Both her sister Mae Schrank and daughter, Deva Luna followed Elaine in becoming Master Gardeners in 1997.

Deva also related that Elaine took her to her first Western Hort meeting and that the Topher Delaney talk inspired Deva to go back to school and become a landscape designer.

Elaine and her husband Morton were the owners of several local newspapers over the years starting with the Milpitas Post in 1953. They also owned The Almanac, Los Altos Town Crier, Cupertino Courier, Saratoga News, Los Gatos Times Observer and five San Jose Sun neighborhood newspapers.

Elaine Levine died peacefully at her historic home in the Saratoga hills with family members nearby. Due to COVID restrictions there was no memorial service but Deva would welcome memories of Elaine that you would like to share and will pass them along to her father and the rest of the family. Donations in her memory may be made to the Master Gardeners of Santa Clara County or the Milpitas Historical Society, c/o the Milpitas Library, 160 S. Main St. Milpitas, CA 95035.

Above was excerpted from [The Almanac obituary](#) and information supplied by Elaine's daughter, Deva Luna, devluna@gmail.com.

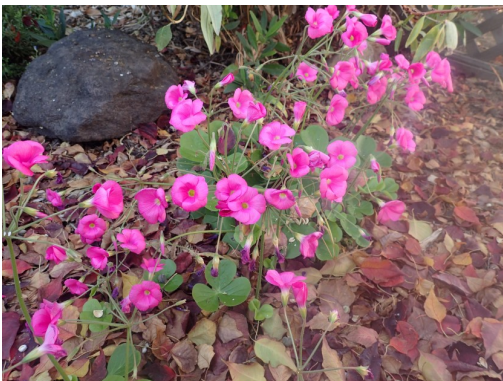
If you have interest in the restoration of the Fremont Older house here is a link to the Open Space video on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hxoa59VazXM>



DECEMBER PLANT SHARE

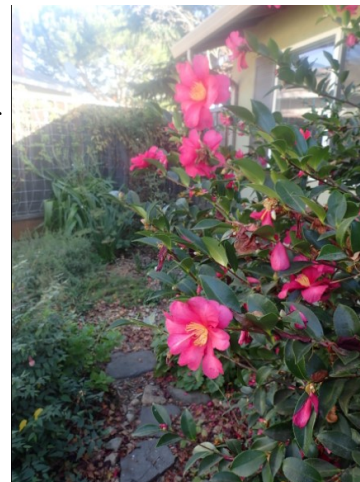
Janet Hoffmann, Campbell, shared these from her garden:

Camellia sasanqua ‘Kanjiro’ – Janet is growing this evergreen shrub in partial shade under her eaves. It is quite large after having grown for 20 years and is 8’ tall x 10’ wide. It has dark green leaves and semi-double pink blooms with yellow stamens which start appearing in the winter. The blooms have a slight fragrance. Growing on the north side of Janet’s house it is protected from the sun so it doesn’t sunburn.



Oxalis brasilensis

Oxalis brasilensis – This Brazilian bulb grows in full sun to part shade in well-drained soil. It forms a tidy mound that is 1’ tall and wide. The green shamrock leaves are quite showy. It also has beautiful hot pink 5-petaled flowers that bloom in the winter. This showy oxalis can be somewhat invasive but Janet has found that even if it spreads, it is easy to pull up the bulbs. She got it from Nancy Schramm. It is hardy to 25 degrees.

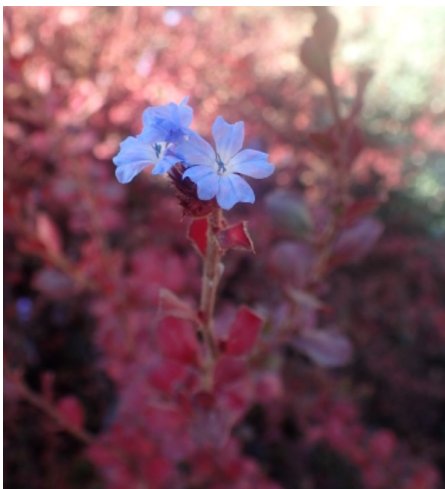


Camellia sasanqua
‘Kanjiro’

Pachysandra axillaris ‘Windcliff Fragrant’ – This tiny sweet smelling evergreen groundcover from the Dan Hinkley collection was discovered in China. It grows in part to full shade in well-drained soil and needs a reasonable amount of water (Janet has it growing underneath the Camellia). It gets to be 6” tall x 3’ wide – it will slowly spread by underground stems. It has glossy green leaves. Tiny fragrant white flowers appear in early spring and again in the fall. Because it only gets 4-6” tall you have to get really low to smell them. It is very frost tolerant.



Pachysandra axillaris
‘Windcliff Fragrant’

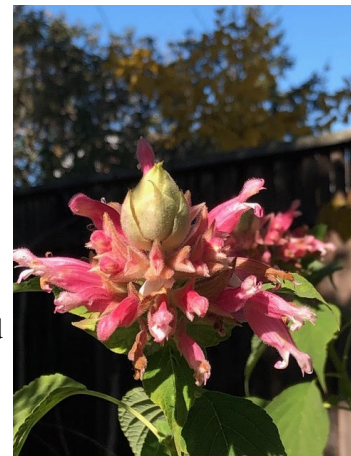


Ceratostigma willmottianum

Ceratostigma willmottianum (Chinese Plumbago) – Janet has been growing this deciduous shrub in the ground for 20 years. It gets to be 3’ tall. It has gorgeous red fall foliage, which contrasts nicely with the blue flowers blooming at the same time. It tends to spread but it is easy to manage.

Judy Wong, Menlo Park shared these interesting selections:

Salvia wagneriana ‘White Bracts’ – Judy got this deciduous cloud forest perennial from the SF Botanical Garden. Kermit from Flowers by The Sea says it's the same as the hybrid ‘Frosty Kiss’. It grows in full sun to part shade, in rich and well-drained soil and it needs regular water year round. It gets to be 6’ tall and wide. Nonstop hot pink flowers with white bracts start appearing in winter from November and it blooms until March. Hummingbirds constantly visit it during winter. It also attracts butterflies. After it flowers Judy prunes it down to 2-3’ to maintain a more compact form.



Salvia wagneriana
‘White Bracts’

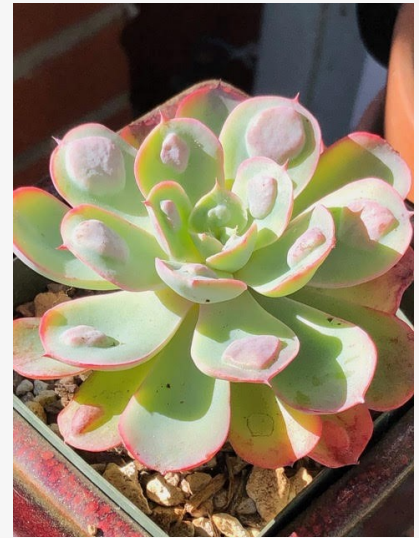
DECEMBER PLANT SHARE CONTINUED



Oscularia caulescens
'Candy Bush'



Camellia sasanqua
'Yuletide'



Echeveria
'Rain Drops'

Oscularia caulescens - (Candy Bush) - Judy bought this evergreen South African perennial ground cover from Annie's Annuals 2 years ago. She has it growing in full sun, in well-drained soil and it has quickly grown to be 1 foot tall x 3-4' wide from a 4" pot. Small 1" pink flowers on top of succulent-like leaves just started blooming for Judy. It should bloom all winter until the early spring. It is similar to *O. deltooides* and it is frost tolerant.

Camellia sasanqua 'Yuletide' - Judy got this upright evergreen shrub from the WHS raffle table 13 ago. It can get to be 10' tall and wide. She thinks it's a great accent plant, a reliable bloomer that is very floriferous, and is easy to care for. It grows in part sun with regular watering. However the spot where she planted hers has been getting more sun exposure over time and the dark green leaves got sunburned this summer with all the heat waves we had. Dark red flowers with bright yellow stamens start appearing in October and go until January. It is frost tolerant, hardy to 10 deg.

Echeveria 'Rain Drops' - This unusual succulent is a Dick Wright hybrid. It is evergreen and it gets to be 6" in diameter. It grows in part to full sun in well-drained soil. As with all succulents, let the soil dry out between watering. It develops "bumps" with age. This specimen is growing in the shade and has these swollen "bumps", which developed in early fall. However, Judy has another one without the distinctive bumps and thinks it may be too young. If grown in full sun the bumps and leaf margins might turn a pinkish color. It is hardy to 25 degrees.



Tagetes minuta
'Black Mint'

Tagetes minuta (Black Mint, Huacatay, Suico, Chinchilla, Anisillo) - This bushy annual grows in full sun and can get to be 6' tall. Minute yellow-orange flowers start appearing in the fall and continue through winter. It is used as a culinary herb in making teas or flavoring stews where it imparts a licorice like flavor, but Judy smells more mint.

It is also used medicinally in treating the common cold, digestive issues and liver problems because it has anti-inflammatory properties. The essential oils found in it are believed to have anti-parasitic, antimicrobial and antibiotic properties. Therefore, it is used to treat minor open wounds, sores, cuts and ulcerated skin. Used in moderation there should be no problems. However, please be careful consuming it, since it has hypotensive properties. This South American herb reseeds readily and is considered a weed in South Africa and also here in California by the USDA.

~Ana Muir

28 YEARS AGO

Western Hort Society met on January 13, 1993 to hear “our own Barbara Worl, noted garden photographer” present a program entitled *French Garden Design*.

In addition, “January is the month when we elect our new Board of Directors.” Three members were approved by the entire membership to fill the three upcoming vacancies. (How about it, Western Horties? Why not volunteer a little of your time, join the Board of Directors and help keep this terrific organization rolling along smoothly! – Nancy)

Twenty-four new members since September were welcomed, four of them are still members to this day, including Carolyn Curtis, Steve and Luana Staiger and Mary Ann Sutton. Good job, folks!

Three members leaving the board were thanked for all their contributions. “Thank you to David and Dorothy Rodal and Elizabeth Garbett who are leaving the board. A very special thank you to Elizabeth who has acted as our president as well as doing the plant notes. This is more than anyone could expect. But we are not loosing her. She will now work with the Landscape Garden Show committee. Dorothy will continue to do the newsletter.”

The plant notes began with the observation: “Evidently there were few members who felt like going out in the pouring rain to glean their winter gardens for plant table material in January so there were slim pickings indeed. Dick Dunmire was one hardy soul who did brave the weather and cut a flowering branch of that winter standby *Chimonanthus praecox* or wintersweet.” (This, to me is the fragrance of December. One of Dad’s customers always brought a blooming branch of wintersweet to the nursery and the lovely odor filled the greenhouse where I worked. – Nancy)

The only other plants on the plant table were *Lonicera fragrantissima* (winter honeysuckle) and three species of hellebore: *Helleborus orientalis*, *H. argutifolius* and *H. foetidus*. Elizabeth commented “Hellebores are not eaten by gophers or, apparently by deer (one is reluctant to make any positive statements about what deer will or will not eat) although snails can be a problem.”

There was a special notice about the upcoming exhibit at the 1993 Landscape Garden Show. “WHS and Cal Hort are joining forces this year to put together an exhibit honoring some of the Northern Californian plantsmen who have made significant contributions to our gardens by the plants they introduced. We want to put as many of these landmark plants as we can find in a garden setting and provide pertinent biographical and historical information as well. Our task of finding these plants is made difficult by the rapidity with which older cultivars are superseded by “new and improved” varieties.” A wish list followed, including:

Rhododendron ‘Owen Pierce’

Victor Reiter’s fuchsias

Bill Schmidt’s pelargoniums

Frank Reinelt’s original strains of polyanthus primroses

Toichi Domoto’s azaleas, double gerberas or maples

Arbutus ‘Marina’

Sidney Mitchell’s iris cultivars

Clematis armandii

Crataegus ‘Autumn Glory’

Camellia ‘Clarke’s Red’

~Nancy Schramm

STROLLING AROUND THE INTERNET

If you are a fan of BIG trees, and who isn't, check out this link from NPR and National Geographic:
<https://www.npr.org/sections/pictureshow/2012/12/13/167163801/one-photo-126-frames-2-billion-leaves-247-feet>

BBC Travel story about *The Tiny Forests Designed by Feng Shui*
<http://www.bbc.com/travel/story/20201215-the-tiny-forests-designed-by-feng-shui>

HORTICULTURAL HAPPENINGS

Bay Visions Symposium, January 13th, see page 8 for event information.

California Horticultural Society presentation, January 18, 2021, 6:30 pm, *Science, Cultivation and Conservation: The Function of Collectors in the Conservation of Flora* by Nathan Gazineau, landscape designer and self-described "compulsive collector". Watch your email for a link to this presentation and also for information about participating in their Seed Exchange. For more information go to <https://calhortsociety.org>

Gamble Gardens in Palo Alto is searching for a new Garden Director. For more information and job description: <https://www.gamblegarden.org/our-story/careers/>

UPCOMING MEETINGS

February 10th: Toni Gattone, Author, Blogger, Speaker. *You CAN Garden for Life!*

March 10th: Sue Milliken and Kelly Dodson, Far Reaches Farm in Port Townsend, WA., *Beauty and Botany in the Far Reaches*

April 14th : Saxon Holt and Nora Harlow, *Gardening in Summer-Dry Climates*

May 12: Steve Fennimore, Extension Specialist and Weed Scientist UC Davis, *When is a Weed a Weed? How to ID and Control Them.*

Officers and Board Members:

President: Janet Hoffmann
Vice President: Grace Tsang
Secretary : Leslie Dean
Corresponding Secretary: Open position

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: Carrie Parker

Speaker Program Committee: Leslie Dean (chair),
Nancy Schramm, Judy Wong, Glenda Jones
Newsletter Editor: Kathy Anberg

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



BAY VISIONS SYMPOSIUM

January 13th, 2021

10:00—11:30 AM Program

9:30 AM Opening Slide Show

The Power of Plants Will Protect the Bay

Join us for an inspiring look at adaptation, regeneration, and the role plants play in mitigating the challenges facing San Francisco Bay.

Register Here

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/bay-visions-tickets-127648342629>

Program Highlights

Karina Nielsen, professor and director of the Estuary & Ocean Science Center, San Francisco State University, will provide an overview of the complex issues facing the Bay. <https://eoscenter.sfsu.edu/content/karina-nielsen>

Dr. Katharyn Boyer, professor of Biology-Wetlands, Community and Restoration Ecology, will highlight mitigation and restoration efforts using plants as buffers, filters and habitat for the Bay Area Biome. www.tedxmarin.org/speaker/katharyn-boyer/

Josie Iselin, author of *The Curious World of Seaweed*, will discuss the vital role of seaweed in maintaining our Bay ecosystem while she shares her ethereal photos of seaweed's shape-shifting colors, revealing a rich botanical world not often seen. www.josieiselin.com

Diana Benner and Laura Hanson, co-owners of The Watershed Nursery in Richmond, will provide an up-close look at the native plants they grow, the nursery's involvement in large wetlands restoration projects, and the use of local wetland species in Bay Area gardens. www.watershednursery.com

Sponsored By

Piedmont Garden Club, Woodside-Atherton Garden Club, Marin Garden Club, Orinda Garden Club, Hillsborough Garden Club, and Carmel-By-the-Sea Garden Club

Questions? Contact Julia Burke at juliaburke94610@yahoo.com



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

Meeting location January 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 January.** 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