

FEBRUARY 2023 MEETING

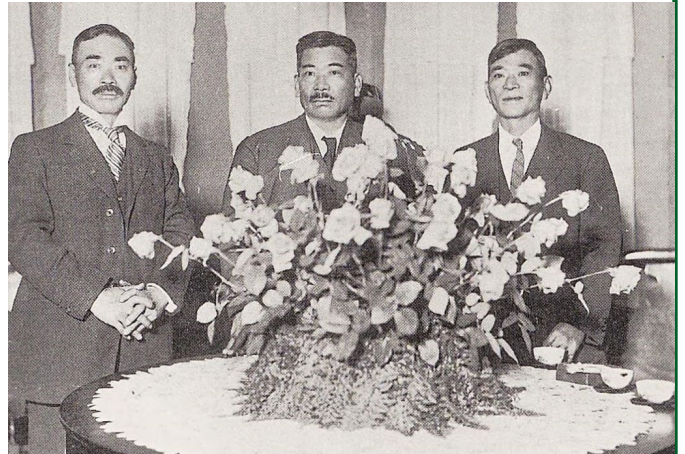
February 8th, 7:30pm

The February meeting will be in-person in the Garden House at Shoup Park in Los Altos. *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. Please wear a mask while indoors.* Meetings are free for members, non-member in-person attendees are \$10.00. See page 7 of this newsletter for information about joining Western Horticultural Society.

Speaker: Eric Hsu

Topic: Of Heartbreak & Flowers: The Domoto Family & Their Horticultural Legacy in the United States.

How many of you have relished a Japanese persimmon in autumn and enjoyed a camellia blossom in winter? Neither would have existed on our shores if not for the presence of Japanese immigrants who sought better opportunities here. By necessity, the Japanese Americans took up farming and growing plants when other professions were closed to them. England and France may claim dynastic families, the Veitch and the Lemoine in horticulture, but the United States can boast worthy rivals. One rival would have been the Domoto family whose nurseries in the Bay Area exerted tremendous influence in California's burgeoning agricultural and horticultural scene. From its inception in 1885 until its bankruptcy in 1936, the Domoto Brothers Nursery was the largest nursery of its kind spanning 40 acres and 230,000 square feet of greenhouses. Its large staff drawn from waves of Japanese immigration grew, prepared and shipped orders of all sizes to estates, parks, farms and other nurseries. Some of these staff members left to start their own businesses which catapulted California's status as the Golden State of Horticulture. The Domoto Nursery, a second iteration started by the former California Horticultural Society president Toichi Domoto, continued the tradition of selecting and breeding ornamental plants, many of which are still cultivated in Bay Area gardens.



***Kanetaro, Takanoshin, and Motonoshin Domoto
1920's***



A native of New York, Eric Hsu was inspired to pursue plants as a passion and a profession after becoming involved in his Taiwanese grandparents' vegetable garden. His childhood was marked by visits to garden centers, specialty nurseries and public gardens. Eric's love of plants has taken him overseas to United Kingdom (his favorite public garden is RBG Edinburgh) and Tasmania, Australia where he worked and did graduate research in botany. His current interest in Asian American history in horticulture stems from his longstanding concern about overlooked voices, especially of minorities, and the need to keep the stories alive and relevant. Eric currently works as the Plant Information Coordinator at Chanticleer near Philadelphia, PA.



Kumasaka Camellia



Pink Ball Camellia

CO-PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

"I close my eyes and listen to the voices of the rain."

— Robin Wall Kimmerer, *Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge and the Teachings of Plants*

"There is an ancient conversation going on between mosses and rocks, poetry to be sure. About light and shadow and the drift of continents. This is what has been called the "dialect of moss on stone - an interface of immensity and minuteness, of past and present, softness and hardness, stillness and vibrancy, yin and yang."

— Robin Wall Kimmerer, *Gathering Moss: A Natural and Cultural History of Mosses*

Rain and moss - we had lots of the first and now have lots of the second. We can enjoy seeing whether moss really does blanket the north side of tree trunks! I was up on the roof, cladding some of it in plastic, and got very mossy when squeezing under an eave overhanging a lower level of roofing. That stuff is wet.

Like the author quoted above, our February speaker, Eric Hsu, has an association with New York State. For the past decade he has been the plant information coordinator at Chanticleer, the world-class public garden ten miles northwest of Philadelphia. A foretaste of Eric's talk can be found here: <https://www.cultivatingplace.com/post/lunar-new-year-with-tawainese-american-plantsman-eric-hsu>

~ Grace Tsang & Meri-Beth Bird

JANUARY SPEAKER NOTES

On January 11th, via Zoom, Rebecca Sweet gave us an enthusiastic and inspiring talk titled, "Refresh Your Garden Design: Simple Strategies to Wake Up a Weary Garden."

As in many other endeavors, success is rewarded by some deliberate editing. Rebecca reminded us that we may have "familiarity blindness" to our gardens that have existed for a period of years, and so bravely taking out plants that have just never thrived in the way we wanted or reducing excesses of gnome collections or the like is a good first step.

A next step is taking photographs from various vantage points. Sitting down with photos is an extremely useful way to focus on the garden as a whole, perhaps noticing elements that are missing, overlooked or rediscovering aspects you love. Converting color photos to black and white reveals textures and shapes. Rebecca recommends marking up black and white photographs by circling specific plants to emphasize these aspects which are so important in creating harmony. Both repetition and contrast are important in combining textures and shapes. While it may not be best to succumb to "one-of-a-kind-itis", repetition does not always have to be achieved with multiples of the same species or variety. Repeating elements can be foliage forms, textures, shapes or colors that are similar. Mood can be expressed with different forms (columnar, weeping, upright or mounding). Winter gardens in particular can look spectacular based on form, especially evergreens. Strong forms can be softened by surrounding them with low-growing plants. Color harmony also needs repetition and contrast.

Create harmony by the straightforward uses of flower and leaf colors in spring and then there are more complex methods, such as using color echoes (Rebecca showed Blackbird *Euphorbia* near Peach Bombay *Heuchera*), new growth in the spring (*Persicaria* 'Red Dragon' with peonies), fall color, stems, berries, the undersides of leaves and inner parts of flowers.

Non-living elements, such as trellises, sculpture, fountains, stones and other inorganic objects can be used very effectively for their color, shape and texture. Rebecca made it seem possible that any of us can up our garden design game using the principles she laid out. She kindly provided a handout with an outline of design principles and a plant list, downloadable on our website:

https://www.westernhort.org/_files/ugd/52bdd0_8cce47a64e7440bbba7d0db52390d404.pdf

To go deeper, reading her new book "Refresh Your Garden Design with Color, Texture & Form" would be a good bet. While the January lecture was not recorded, Rebecca's website <https://harmonyinthegarden.com> includes a 5-part video that covers key principles.

~ Jen Dungan

JANUARY PLANT SHARE

Jennifer Dungan from Mountain View shared three of her favorites.

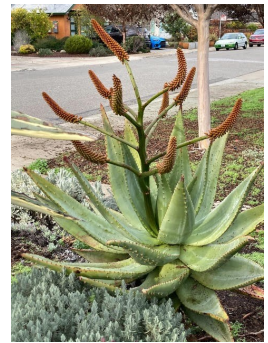


This attractive container demonstrates a successful combination of a succulent with a non-succulent.

Cordyline 'Design-A-Line Burgundy' – This grassy-looking New Zealand perennial grows in full sun to part shade (zones 8-11) in well-drained soil. It gets to be 3' tall and wide with rich burgundy colored leaves. It tolerates low water but becomes lush when it gets more water.

Pachyphytum oviferum (Pearly Moonstones) – This Mexican succulent grows in full to part sun (zones 9-11) in well-drained soil. It only gets to be 8" tall and the leaves resemble sugar coated almond candies having an oval but flattened shape. Currently the stems are bare between the rosettes and Jennifer believes it is due to the cold weather we've been having. It doesn't thrive in temperatures below 45° for extended periods. (Mountain Crest Gardens states 30° is the hardiness temp. ed)

Aloe marlothii (Mountain Aloe, Flat Flowered Aloe) – Jennifer got this South African succulent as a 4" pot from Annie's Annuals 6 years ago. She put it in the ground and it is thriving. It grows in full sun (zones 9-10) in well-drained soil. It has a trunk and can get to be 6' tall, but it is currently only 3' tall. The thick leaves are armed with reddish-brownish spines along the edges and are scattered throughout the leaves. After 5 years it bloomed for the first time last year, but this year the 4' tall candelabra flower spikes haven't completely opened up yet. Takes none or some summer water.



Diane Chambers from Sunnyvale presented:

Deppea splendens (Golden Fuchsia) – Now believed to be extinct in the mountains of Chiapas, this cloud forest, multi-trunked shrub can be found growing in the San Francisco Botanical Gardens. Clones taken from it have been shared with many nurseries, including Annie's Annuals. Diane got it when Annie's Annuals came to give a talk at WHS. It grows in filtered sun to bright shade (zones 9-10) in rich well-drained soil and gets to be 8' tall x 5' wide. Pendulant yellow flowers hanging from reddish calyces start appearing in the late

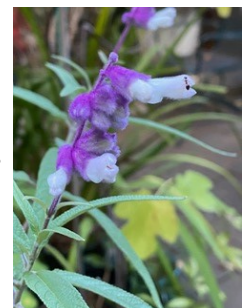
summer and continue thru fall. Hummingbirds love it and it has been blooming for a long time.

Brachychiton rupestris (Queensland Bottle Tree) – This drought tolerant, Australian, semi-deciduous tree, can be identified by its unusual bottle-looking shaped trunk (pachycaul) which is a big water storage unit that can get to be 6' in diameter. It grows in full sun (zones 9-11) in well-drained soil with little water. Diane has it growing in a pot. The leaves have 2 shapes: dissected juvenile leaves and long, narrow mature leaves. Small white and reddish flowers appear in the summer. It is hardy to 20°. Diane likes the way the rain collects on the branches and glistens in the sun.



Acer palmatum var. dissectum (Laceleaf Japanese Maple) – This deciduous shrub or small tree grows in shade to part shade (zones 5-9) in moist and well-drained soil. It is a slow-grower and can get to be 8' tall and wide. It has very delicate and lacy leaves.

Salvia leucantha (Mexican Sage Bush) – This quick growing perennial grows in full sun to part shade (zones 8-10) in well-drained soil. It can get to be 5' tall and wide. The 3" gray-green fuzzy leaves are long and elliptical and are covered by woolly white hairs. Tall flower spikes of purple and white bicolored flowers appear in the summer. As with any *Salvia*, hummingbirds and bees are attracted to it.



Diane Chambers plant share continued -



Iris unguicularis (Algerian Iris) – This rhizome native to the Mediterranean grows in full sun to part shade (zones 7-9) in well-drained soil. It can get to be 18" tall and wide but is shorter since Diane has it growing in a pot. Fragrant purple flowers can start appearing in late fall and will bloom into early spring. It needs some to little summer watering. It is hardy to at least 10°.

Nancy Schramm from Gilroy shared:

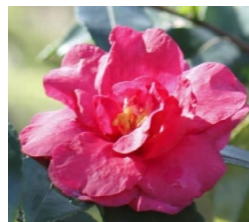
Buxus microphylla 'Kingsville' – This is the smallest and slowest growing evergreen boxwood, favored by garden railroad and bonsai enthusiasts. It takes 10 YEARS for it to be 8" tall and wide and has only gotten to be 10" tall and wide for Nancy in 40 YEARS growing in a 2-gallon pot. It can grow in full sun (in cooler climates) but looks best in part shade, (zones 7-9) in moist well-drained soil. Nancy has noticed that by withholding fertilizer the winter color is enhanced. The usually glossy green leaves turn a deep rusty color. There is some confusion concerning the name, but *Buxus 'Kingsville'* is probably the same plant as *Buxus compacta*. Here is a link if you want to read more: <https://landscapeplants.oregonstate.edu/plants/buxus-microphylla-compacta>



Pelargonium 'Fringed Jer'rey' – Nancy got this Angel Pelargonium from a friend who got it from Robin Parer (owns Geraniaceae Nursery). It grows in filtered shade or a place that gets afternoon shade in well-drained soil. It gets to be 2' tall and wide but with pinching can become very compact. The small light green leaves are scalloped and ruffled. The deep burgundy flowers (3/4" across) edged by pink margins bloom pretty much year round. It is slightly tender and suffers below 25°.

Janet Hoffmann from Campbell shared two Camellias from Monrovia, which she bought at Yamagami's Garden Center almost 30 years ago. Camellias prefer growing in part sun to full shade (zones 7-9) in well-drained soil. The Sasanqua Camellias are associated with blooming around Christmas and can tolerate more sun. However both of these are growing in filtered shade and are watered by drip irrigation once a week.

Camellia sasanqua 'Bonanza' – This early-blooming Camellia gets to be 5' tall x 8' wide. Janet is trying to espalier it in front of this 3' tall fence and it is not even 2' tall. It has finely serrated dark green leaves. It has semi-double ruffled red flowers that almost appear peony-like.



Camellia sasanqua 'Kanjiro' – This mid-blooming Camellia has a fairly upright form and gets to be 10' tall and wide. Janet has to prune it to keep it from reaching the eaves of the house. It has finely serrated glossy green leaves. It has semi-double pink flowers with yellow stamens that are loved by hummingbirds.

~ Ana Muir

The philosopher who said that work well done never needs doing over,
never weeded a garden.

28 YEARS AGO

On February 8, 1995, Western Hort met to hear “Jan Moyer, (who) will speak on *Lighting in the Garden*. She is the owner of **Night Lighting**, a landscape lighting store in Oakland, and she also teaches a class on lighting the landscape.” (These days with light pollution and how disruptive night lighting can be for pollinators that are active at night, I’ll bet it might be an interesting discussion about how much landscape lighting could be too much. – NLS)

New board members and officers mentioned included several who are still active members including John Hammerschmidt and Mary Kaye; and Judy Wong (the most recent recipient of our Founders’ Award) who took on the job of Vice President. One of the three new members welcomed was Lorena Gorsche, who remains a member despite moving out of the area.

A committee was organized to design and prepare the WHS entry for the Landscape Garden Show to be held in April. After the smash hit of the WHS produced book *Successful Perennials for the Peninsula*, it was decided that a book about vines would be created as a companion publication. “Elaine Levine has agreed to be the Editor for our new book on vines.”

Gamble Garden announced a class to be taught by Barrie Coate on the 28th: *Using Shrubs and Trees as a Vertical Screen*.

Another announcement was about a Gardening Flea Market, hosted by the UCCE (Master Gardeners) to take place on April 1st at the Guadalupe Garden. WHS planned to attend: “We will have a booth to sell things provided by you – plants, old gardening tools, pots, books, etc.” (I believe this was a precursor of the very popular Spring Garden Market. **News Flash:** The SGM will be returning this year, April 15th, at Martial Cottle Park, rebranded **Spring Garden Fair** – NLS)

The Plant Notes for February began with a successful id announcement! Five months before, Bob Young brought in a volunteer (plant) that “while we were pretty sure it was some sort of physalis, it didn’t match any of the species in *Hortus III*.” Thanks to another member, Bill Duncan, the plant was discovered in the Thompson and Morgan seed catalogue and proved to be *Nicandra physalodes*.

“Don Brandeau showed both the lavender-flowered form (of *Hardenbergia violacea*) and the pink, *H. v.* ‘Rosea’. Don says there is even a white-flowered form, ‘Alba’.” This plant “...from Australia has become a popular vine here in recent years for several reasons: first for its pretty lavender pea-like flowers generously produced in late winter and early spring, and for its tolerance of tough conditions.”

Sherry Austin brought in *Azara microphylla* (a small but elegant tree with fragrant flowers) as well as the variegated form. Plus two camellias, *C. japonica* ‘Tinsie’ (small, anemone form flowers) “...a ring of outer red petals with a prominent central boss of white petaloids.”, and *C. lutchuensis*, a species camellia with small white flowers and a strong, pleasant scent.

Mary Kaye shared “two species of the winter-flowering Australian fuchsia, *Correa x harrisii* and *Correa pulchella*” (Evergreen shrubs, small to medium size, bushy and dense). “She also showed *Osmarea burkwoodii*, a hybrid between *Osmanthus delavayi* and *Phillyrea decora*, sometimes sold as *Osmanthus burkwoodii*.” (Large, bushy evergreen shrub with small, fragrant white flowers in the spring.)

Lyn Dearborn brought a cymbidium orchid with unusually upright flowers; brown sepals and yellow-spotted petals. Elizabeth Garbett showed a selection of *Helleborus orientalis* blossoms in a wide range of colors, from white to pink to purple. (It) “is a useful perennial for dry shade and is deer and gopher resistant.”

~ Nancy Schramm

HORTICULTURAL HAPPENINGS

NorCal Landscape & Nursery Show: Thursday, February 9th, 8am - 4pm, San Mateo Event Center. <https://norcaltradeshows.org/faq-on-norcal/> Pre-register for free entry to the show or \$5 at the door. \$15.00 parking fee

The Annual Mammoth Auction & Sale (benefiting the GSBF Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt) will be in Oakland on Feb 18th & 19th. <https://www.gsbfbonsai.org/event-details/annual-mammoth-auction-sale-2023>

Cal Hort Society: General Meeting on Monday, February 20th 6:30 pm. <https://calhortsociety.org/> Paul Bonine from Xera Nursery, Portland, OR. will speak on *The Heat Dome of the Northwest and How Native Species Coped with the Adverse Climate Effect*.

Horticultural Happenings Continued -

Going Native Garden Tour: April 1st and 2nd <https://www.gngt.org/GNGT/HomeRO.php>

Organized by the [California Native Plant Society \(Santa Clara Valley Chapter\)](#)

in association with [UCCE Master Gardeners of Santa Clara County](#).

Bring Back the Natives Garden Tour and Green Home Features Showcase Virtual Tour: April 15th and 16;

In-person tour May 6th and 7th <https://www.bringingbackthenatives.net/>

Santa Clara Master Gardeners Spring Garden Fair: April 15th at Martial Cottle Park. For updates and details

please use this link <https://mgsantaclara.ucanr.edu/events-calendar/spring-garden-market/>

Upcoming Meetings

March 8th: John Tsutakawa, Making Hypertufa Troughs

April 12th: Martin Quigley, The Ins & Outs, Ups & Downs of Succulent Container Gardening

May 10th: Rose Loveall, Hardworking Herbs

Annual Meeting Report

Our January meeting was our Annual Business Meeting where members elect or re-elect board members. Elected board members agree to serve a two-year term. At Wednesday's meeting the membership approved Grace Tsang and Carol Dahout to each serve another two-year term.

Those of you who were at the meeting saw the nice chart which Grace created showing the past board and their positions and terms of service. To summarize that history and fill in a few more details:

I, Janet Hoffmann, joined the board in the fall of 2016 after stepping in to fill a vacancy as the newsletter editor. The editor is not a board position and our current editor, Kathy Anberg, has chosen not to be on the board. However, I liked the idea of joining the board to become more involved and learn more about the organization. I termed out this fall after serving three two-year terms. During that time, I volunteered to serve as vice-president when Judy Wong left the board in February 2018 and then as president when Carrie Parker stepped down in January of 2019.

My service on the board was very rewarding. I got to know the other board members and others in the organization much better. I also formed alliances with members of the California Horticultural Society. The job did take up some of my time and energy but gave me the satisfaction of giving back to an organization from which I gained a great deal of horticultural knowledge since sometime in the late 1980's.

Another retiring board member, Rosalie Shepherd stepped up to join the board in January 2021 and agreed to take over the corresponding secretary role vacated by Laurie Schofield, who left the board in December 2020 after serving for three years. Rosalie also served on the board from 2011-2015 and held the position of corresponding secretary during a portion of that time period.

There are two other board members who will be completing their third two-year terms in 2023. They are Leslie Dean our current recording secretary and Jennifer Doniach our current treasurer. Jennifer joined the board in July 2017 and briefly filled in as recording secretary until Leslie joined the board that November and took over that position. At that point we were in need of a treasurer because Daxin Liu wanted to step down from that role and Jennifer agreed to become our treasurer. Leslie also served on the board from 1999-2004 and was vice-president in 2001 and president from 2002-2004.

One of our current co-presidents, Grace Tsang, joined the board in January 2019. She became vice-president after Janet became president in the spring of 2020.

Carol Dahout also joined the board in January 2019. She helped to manage our Zoom meetings throughout the initial years of COVID when we were unable to meet in person. Both Carol and Grace are starting their third two-year term.

Meri-Beth Bird joined the board last spring and agreed to become co-president with Grace.

Eva Huala and Jennifer Dungan were voted onto the board in September 2022. Jennifer took over the Speaker Notes for our monthly newsletter.

As you can tell from reading this, we are in need of some new board members. The vice-president position has been open for the past year since Grace became president. We are also in need of a corresponding secretary to replace Rosalie. Please consider serving on the board to help bring fresh ideas and keep our organization functioning smoothly.

~ Janet Hoffmann

GET INVOLVED

Would you like to help Western Hort and get to know a speaker better? Once or twice a year, we host speakers from outside our area. We frequently arrange for housing for them and many times the speakers enjoy the more personal experience of staying with someone in the area. We are looking for Western Hort members who would like to open their home for out of town speakers to stay a night or two. This is an opportunity to spend time with fascinating people in the horticultural world right in your own home. The speaker committee is compiling a list of those willing to share their home and will contact you as needed. You do not have to transport the speaker anywhere or host them beyond a nice bed and perhaps a breakfast if you feel up to it. If this is an opportunity that appeals to you or if you have any questions, please contact Leslie Dean at lesliekdean@sonic.net or speak to a board member at any of our meetings.

Vice president and Board members : These positions are still open. Get to know your fellow WHS members and help keep the society vibrant and well rounded. 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 or speak to any of the current board members at our meetings.

STROLLING AROUND THE INTERNET

The 12 best botanical gardens across the United States <https://www.fodors.com/news/photos/the-best-botanical-gardens-across-the-united-states?anf=DEFAULT>

A news story about a part of the **Japanese relocations** that relates to our topic for February.
<https://www.cbsnews.com/sanfrancisco/news/japanese-internment-camp-keetley-valley/>

PLANT SALE TABLE

The popular Plant Sale Table resumes in February at our in-person Shoup Park Garden House meeting. Keep propagating those plants! All money collected goes to support WHS programs and the scholarship fund. A very special thanks to Carol Dahout for becoming the manager of the table! If you would like to get involved and help out with the plant sales contact Carol or any board member for information.

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,
Jennifer Dungan and Eva Huala

Volunteer Committees and Responsibilities:

Plant Sale Table: Carol Dahout
Email and website maintenance: Ursula Haschke
Publicity and Outreach: Grace Tsang
Membership: Ursula Haschke
Meeting Tech: Grace Tsang, Jennifer Doniach,
Janet Hoffmann & John Hammerschmidt
Welcome Table: Meri-Beth Bird & Eva Huala

Speaker Program Committee: Leslie Dean (chair),
Nancy Schramm, Judy Wong, Glenda Jones
Newsletter Editor: Kathy Anberg
Scholarships: Grace Tsang, Jennifer Doniach,
Meri-Beth Bird, Rosalie Shepherd, Janet Hoffmann &
Nancy Schramm

About Membership in Western Hort:

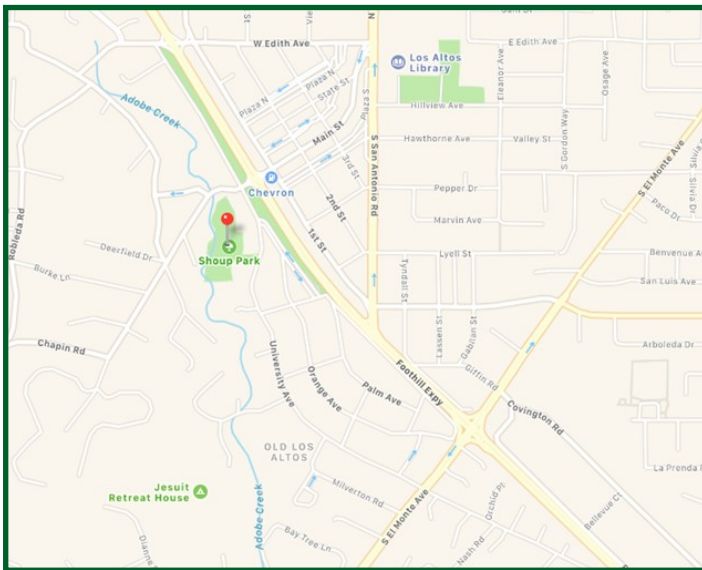
Membership Rates: A one-year membership (Sep-Aug) includes an e-mail copy of this newsletter and admittance to all of our monthly meetings. Regular membership is \$35, Family membership for two or more members at the same address is \$50, and a discounted rate for students is \$20. To receive a print 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



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



Meeting date & location : February 8th
In Person at Shoup Park Garden House, 400 University Ave., Los Altos
(Wear Masks)
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 February.** 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