



## December 2016 Holiday Party

Wednesday, December 14: 6 pm hors d'oeuvres, 6:30 pm potluck dinner, 7:30 pm program. Arrive 4:30-5 pm if you can help with set-up.

**Program: A Celebration of the lives of Dick and Helaine Dunmire with music by 27strings**

It's time to gather for our Annual Holiday Party. This year it is a Celebration of Dick and Helaine Dunmire with a presentation by their daughter, Annelise Krinsky and music by 27strings. Dick Dunmire's slide collection will be playing in the background along with the music. Dick's family has generously donated books from his library that will be available for sale to benefit the Western Horticultural Society. Arrive early to get the first crack at the books, payment can be made at the end of the evening. **New this year**, there will also be a drawing for member supplied door prizes! **Bring your plant related "gifty" items to contribute for the prizes.**



*Dick and Helaine Dunmire,  
Photo courtesy of Annelise Krinsky*

**WHS will provide a turkey along with hors d'oeuvres, wine, hot cider and non-alcoholic beverages and Annelise Krinsky is kindly providing a ham. Please bring a dish serving eight to share - side dish, salad, entrée, or a dessert. Bring your own plate and eating utensils. Also bring canned food for donation to a Local Food Bank.**

For those of you who did not have the good fortune to know him, Dick was a founding member of Western Horticultural Society in 1963 and passed away in November 2014. An avid gardener, he shared plants from his garden at the monthly meetings and along with a few others was a "walking plant encyclopedia".

After completing his Master's in English and teaching at University of Kansas, the Dunmires returned to California in

1959. Dick worked at Montebello Nursery in Los Altos, which deepened his knowledge and passion for horticulture. Sunset editors would come into the nursery. Dick started freelancing articles for the magazine and then was asked to join as a staff writer and editor in 1963. His first assignment was to work with the garden editor of the magazine to edit the massive 1967 Western Garden Book. After the book, Dick continued on as a writer/editor and botanical/horticultural expert with the magazine until retiring in 1989. Even in retirement, he continued to work on all editions of the Sunset Western Garden Book through 2001. His wit, astounding recall, and plant knowledge enlivened many a WHS meeting!



The **27strings** band plays traditional as well as contemporary bluegrass. They are known for their strong vocals, great harmonies, and fast-paced fiddle tunes.

**Please RSVP by Dec. 10 to: [info@westernhort.org](mailto:info@westernhort.org)**

***Location is the same as our meeting location:***

Los Altos Youth Center, 1 North San Antonio Rd.,  
Los Altos, CA 94022

## November 2016 Plant Notes

Judy Wong from Menlo Park brought:

*Aeonium* 'Mardi Gras' – Judy bought this very colorful evergreen succulent, which she bought from Home Depot. It derives its name from the wonderful color it displays in late fall to winter. Its stunning leaves usually have a thick middle green band that is surrounded by a yellow band and whose edges can be a hue between rose to burgundy. Like all succulents it does best in well-drained soil. It is tender to 32°F. Judy has it growing in part-sun.



Photo: Huntington.org



Photo: lambley.com.au

*Iris unguicularis* (Winter-blooming Algerian Iris) – This evergreen perennial is one of her favorite plants. Its narrow green leaves form an 18" x 18" clump, and it has fragrant delicate 2" purple flowers which have a yellow marked bread with white netting on the throat. It flowers from late summer through winter in zones 7a – 9b and can tolerate temperatures down to 5°F. It prefers dry but well-drained soil. Judy doesn't water it at all; she totally ignores it and grows it in part sun. Cut leaves down by 1/3 to 1/2 to show off flowers.

Ted Kipping from SF brought:

In honor of our speaker he brought in 2 Echeverias, each having 10-12" rosettes. He didn't remember their names. However at the meeting one was identified as *E. gibbiflora*.

*E. gibbiflora* (Oreja de Burro) - This cultivar can have many colors and different forms of leaves and rosettes and grows to be 12" tall and 16" wide. The leaves are usually spoon-shaped and have a reddish-green tinge on their waxy-edged margins. The red bell shaped flowers are yellow inside and can grow on a flowering stem that is 2.5' tall or 6' tall.



Photo: worldofsucculents



Photo: smgrowers.com

*Aloe dawei* (Dawe's Aloe) – This clump forming succulent has 18" long recurving green leaves with small teeth and grows to 3-4' tall and wide. Ted's is 5' tall. It has fiery orange red flowers that grow along 2' tall branching trunks (Ted has 4) in the fall here, although it begins to bloom in the summer in San Diego. It prefers well-drained soil and will grow in either sun or shade. It needs little water during the spring and summer and none during the winter since it gets enough from our rains. It is hardy to 20-25°F and produces suckers from its base.

*Aloe ciliaris* (Climbing Aloe) – This plant bears the shame of having a new name. The old name was *Aloiampelos ciliaris*. This succulent vine from South Africa has 6-12” long orange to red tubular flowers. Ted has it growing on a fence, which supports it, but it can also be grown as a groundcover where it has a sprawling habit. It prefers full sun, can grow up to 10' tall and is hardy to 25-30°F. Although it can grow with little to no water, the more water it receives the lusher and greener it becomes.



Photo: flickr.com



*Salvia (guaranitica?)* - Supposedly ‘Costa Rica Blue’, this semi-shrubby perennial was pinched from a garden in Panama City at the Costa Rica hotel. It has a comestible fragrance, 3” heart shaped leaves and gets to be 4-6' tall and wide. It has dark blue flowers with almost black calyxes and begins to flower in the spring or summer until frost. It is hardy to 20-25°F. It is grown in the UC Botanical Garden.

Photo: smgrowers.com

*Cuphea oreophila* - This easy to grow floriferous evergreen shrub has 2” vivid red tubular flowers with 2 red upper petals, which seem to bloom year-round and are visited by hummingbirds. Ted bought it from Annie’s Annuals (who got it from Strybing Arboretum) which states it should grow to 4’ x 4’ but his is 7 feet tall. It prefers well-drained soil that has been amended with compost and can grow in the sun and part shade.



Photo: davesgarden.com



Photo: fbs.com

*Cuphea schumannii* - This easy to grow floriferous upright evergreen shrub (zones 9-10) has 1.5 – 2” red tubular flowers that have contrasting lavender purple stamens and upper petals. Hummingbirds, bees, butterflies and hoverflies are attracted to it. It prefers well drained soil but can grow in the sun or part shade and grows to 4’ x 4’. It can be pruned to 2’ tall in the winter.

*Sarracenia leucophylla* (White-topped pitcher plant, Crimson pitcher plant) - This carnivorous 1-3’ tall x 2’ wide pitcher plant has evergreen sword-shaped leaves and its attractive pitcher plants have white mottling against reddish-purple veining. It prefers to be grown in the sun in acidic soil or peat soil. The soil must always remain wet because it is normally grows in swamps. It flowers in the spring. Pitcher plants can appear in spring and in fall. If grown in the shade the pitcher plants can drop and the coloration will not be intense. In the winter when cold temperatures hit they go dormant, therefore they should not be considered an indoor plant. It can attract spiders.



Photo: en.wikipedia.org

Katie Wong from San Jose brought:



Photo: davesgarden.com

*Tephrocactus articulatus* (Paper Spine Cactus) – Katie calls this Argentinian cactus, which grows at 11,000 ft. in the Andes Mountains “Bad Hair Day Cactus”. It can get to be 12” tall x 15” wide and has white flowers. The spines are not very lethal but the barbs are. The fruits can grow on top and can get to be the size of a grapefruit. It likes well-drained soil, grows in sun or part sun, likes regular water and tolerates temperatures down to 15°F.

Lee Read from Los Altos brought:



Photo: anniesannuals.com

*Pseudocydonia sinensis* (Chinese quince) – This small deciduous thorn-less small tree or large shrub can grow to be 10 – 20’ tall. It has beautiful fragrant pink blossoms in the summer and large oval fruits in the fall. It also provides fall color with its yellow-red leaves and the bark resembles Sycamore bark with its attractive patchwork of brown, gray and green. You can’t eat the fruit unless it’s cooked. You can make fruit leather, jelly, jam or syrup. The fruit by itself can perfume the whole dining room. It grows in the sun in any



Photo: Asianflora.com

type of soil and can tolerate temperatures down to 15°F.

Fireblight can be a problem.

Nancy Schramm from Gilroy brought:

*Hereroa dyeri* – This succulent from the Cape Province in S. Africa needs winter protection in most of our area but can tolerate a light frost. It is a compact, with short stems bearing cylindrical, 2” long, bluish green leaves which taper to hatchet shaped tips and are marked with raised dots. In summer it bears 1” open bowl-shaped golden yellow flowers. It does best with full sunlight, moderate water, cactus mix type soil, and low N fertilizer. Keep almost dry in winter.

Also brought in by?:



Photo: flickr.com

*Aeonium leucoblepharum* - This slow growing succulent has only grown to be a 1’ mound after 3-4 years even though it rooted quickly. It is quickly identified because of its spoon-shaped pink-green leaves that have a brown or dark red stripe down the middle. It displays its best color during this time of year. Grow in full sun in well-drained soil.

*Scilla hyacinthoides* (Hyacinth Squill) – This clumping hardy bulb is from the Middle East and has wide green leaves that can grow to 3' tall. It prefers to grow in the sun in lean and well-drained soil, which encourages flowering. Fertilizing will result in increasing the foliage at the expense of flowers. The star-like pale blue scented flowers start blooming in the spring along tall spikes with the first flowers opening at the base of the clump. It goes dormant in the summer.

~Ana Muir



Photo: flickr.com

## Plant Table

What a great sale we had last meeting! What a great selection we had, a big thanks to all who brought plants for the table! It seems that everyone loves succulents. Our next plant table will be in January. ~Roberta Barnes

## 28 Years Ago

Western Hort met on December 14, 1988 to “visit with old friends and make new ones” which I think is a great idea. At this year’s potluck, why don’t we all introduce ourselves to at least two people we really don’t know and make some new plant loving friends?! There wasn’t much other news in the newsletter, so let’s move on to November’s plant notes; “Betsy Clebsch selected some of her red-flowered (*Salvia*) species to share with us. *Salvia regia* (a really big plant), *S. blepharophylla* (preferred habit is moist and shady), *S. coquina* ‘Scarlet Sage’ (red flowers set in dark purple bracts), *S. elegans* (three forms including) *S. elegans* ‘Honey Melon’ (alleged to have a better smelling foliage than the ordinary kind), *S. elegans* ‘Frieda Dixon’ (selected from a chance seedling, if I remember correctly, by Jon Dixon and named for his mother. That’s the kind of son to have!).” Dorothy Rodal also showed a salvia, *S. convertiflora* “who obtained it, with much effort, in England after seeing it at Sisinghurst. Graham Stuart Thomas calls it “an extra handsome plant” and our members certainly seemed to agree.” “Keith Bickford brought an exceptionally nice *Anigozanthus* sp. that he had obtained from the Bonsai nursery on the Sunnysvale-Saratoga Road.” Other plants brought in included: *Tulbaghia fragrans* and *Linaria purpurea*. Bill Kurtz showed “*Clivia nobilis* with large drooping tubular orange flowers.” “As an adjunct to his excellent talk, Bart O’Brien showed three choice but little known plants...*Lupinus excubitus*, *Hypericum anagalloides*, and *Heuchera hirsutissima*.” Will Cunningham brought in “a large-flowered, brilliantly colored *Calceolaria*” as well as “*Silene* ‘Royal Electra’, an upright cultivar with masses of bright pink flowers...used in the perennial border at Filoli this year”. I have to end this with more of Elizabeth Garbett’s humor concerning the *Silene*: “Betty Young reports that it was a prolific self-seeder, throwing a carpet of seedlings up to five feet from the plant. *Silenes*, do tend to do this, but they are generous bloomers and easy to grow and, hey, nobody’s perfect.” ~Nancy Schramm



## *Upcoming Meetings*

**January 11, 2017** – Nancy Garrison, *Designing Fruit Trees into the Garden*

**February 8, 2017** – Frederique Lavoipierre, UCSB, Santa Barbara, CA, *The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly: Beneficial Insects in the Garden*

**March 8, 2017** – Jeff Rosendale, Sierra Azul, Watsonville, CA, *Mediterranean Climate: Create Beauty with Appropriate Plants and Less Lawn*

## *Horticultural Happenings*

**Open House at Andy's Orchard** Every weekend between Thanksgiving and Christmas. They offer free samples of their holiday food items, including fresh and dried and chocolate dipped fruit, and many other specialty items. Complimentary eggnog, hot cocoa, cider and tea are all on tap too. Saturdays and Sundays from 10am-4pm. 1615 Half Road, Morgan Hill. [www.andysorchard.com](http://www.andysorchard.com)

**California Rare Fruit Growers—Scion Exchange** January 14e, 2017, 11am- 3pm, Prusch Park, Multicultural Center (MCC), 647 S. King Road, San Jose. Open to CRFG members at 10am. Grafting demos at 11:15am and 1pm. A great variety of fruit tree cutting are available, and some can be planted directly when you get home, such as fig, persimmon, pomegranate and grapes. <http://severcrg.wordpress.com/activities>

### **Officers and Board Members:**

Co-presidents: Carrie Parker and Liz Calhoon

Vice President: Judy Wong

Secretary: Patricia Larenas

Corresponding Secretary: Richard Tiede

Treasurer: Daxin Liu

Other board members: Chris Egan, Judy Fulton, Janet Hoffmann, Carol Moholt, Laura Wilson, Katie Wong

### **About membership in Western Hort:**

To join or renew, send your name, address, phone number and a check made out to “Western Horticultural Society” to PO Box 620673, Woodside, CA 94062-0673.

**Membership Rates:** A one-year membership (Sep-Aug) includes four issues of Pacific Horticulture magazine. Regular membership is \$35, Contributing is \$60, and Plant Lover is \$100+. We have also added a Family membership of \$50 for two or more members at the same address, and a Student rate of \$20.

**Please visit our website at** [http://westernhort.org/membership\\_form.pdf](http://westernhort.org/membership_form.pdf) for a membership form.

To contact us, please send email to: [westernhortsociety@gmail.com](mailto:westernhortsociety@gmail.com), or contact Chris Egan at 650-948-4614, or send mail to Western Horticultural Society, PO Box 60507, Palo Alto, CA, 94306.





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### **NEW MEETING LOCATION**

**Los Altos Youth Center,  
1 North San Antonio Rd.  
Los Altos, CA 94022**

**Main entrance and parking are on the north side of the building. Turn off San Antonio at the sign for the City Hall and Police Dept.** 6 pm hors d'oeuvres, 6:30 pm potluck dinner, 7:30 pm program  
Would you like to **sponsor a lecture** for the WHS that is of particular interest to you? It would be much appreciated!  
Please call Pat Knight at 650-941-6136.

### **Newsletter Submissions**

The newsletter publishes on the first of the month. The deadline for submissions is the 25th of the month prior. Submissions after this date will likely appear in the next month's newsletter. Send submissions to: [Janet@hoffmann.net](mailto:Janet@hoffmann.net), or Janet Hoffmann, 826 Lana CT, Campbell, CA 95008