



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Where passionate gardeners meet to share knowledge and learn from each other.

socalhort.org

NEWSLETTER

October 2020

OUR NEXT VIRTUAL MEETING

Thursday, October 8

Plant Forum at 7:20 p.m.

Webinar at 7:30 p.m.



Visit: www.socalhort.org
for registration info.

SCHS WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

While we did not gain any members in September, we are *always* grateful for the continuing support of all our members, especially during these challenging times.

Thank you!

CONNECT WITH SCHS

We invite members to engage with us online until we can meet again.

FIND US AT:

www.socalhort.org

www.facebook.com/pg/socalhort

www.instagram.com/socalhort



*All membership options
are also listed on our website.*

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Until we are able to meet again in person, the SCHS continues to host monthly webinars and other virtual events. Presentations are being archived on YouTube for your viewing convenience.

Growing Asian Vegetables in Los Angeles

Photo courtesy of speaker.



For our October webinar, we are pleased to welcome Florence Nishida, M.S., a Research Associate at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, to present a program on growing Asian vegetables in Los Angeles. She will show us how gardeners and lovers of good food can expand their palette of home-grown vegetables beyond "peas and carrots" by growing Asian vegetables, which have a wide range of unusual shapes, textures, scents and colors.

Nishida's horticultural background includes the study of macro fungi, particularly of California, and she currently teaches a monthly class on mushroom identification for the Los Angeles Mycological Society. In 2008, she joined the Master Gardeners of Los Angeles County to help encourage L.A. residents, most notably in under-resourced communities, to become more self-sufficient by growing food at home. Nishida also started the first edible/teaching garden at the Natural History Museum where she has taught Beginning Vegetable Gardening classes. In 2010 she founded the non-profit L.A.

Green Grounds (www.lagreengrounds.org) to further her teaching goals. With this group, she has created many front-yard, edible gardens to demonstrate that people can improve their diets, health and physical stamina through the home growing of food.

In this evening's presentation, Nishida will discuss a variety of edible Asian vegetables that can be grown locally alongside the more familiar options we might typically elect to plant. She believes that simple deliciousness, as well as an attractive appearance, can make them desirable garden components. She also hopes to awaken our palates by describing their range of intriguing and sophisticated flavors, so we might choose to experiment with growing and eating Asian vegetables, especially as they are easy to grow!

We look forward to this delectable program, which will provide us with a variety of new choices for planting in our kitchen gardens. And, for the more adventurous, these new flavors may even broaden their culinary skills and introduce the use of both common and special seasonings in interesting combinations. Whatever our level of skill in the garden or the kitchen, this presentation can only serve to whet our appetites for more out-of-the-ordinary vegetables, and we invite you to join us. **1**

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

PLANT FORUM RETURNS!

Log in to our monthly webinar by 7:20 to catch our reinvented virtual Plant Forum! Members have submitted a selection of horticultural favorites along with a brief description. We plan to make the forum more participatory in the future, and look forward to seeing plants again - so tune in!



MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

We recently added a feature to our website where members may submit upcoming events and opportunities or other horticultural items of interest to be shared with other members. (*Note all submissions will be vetted prior to being shared at the next "meeting" if submitted prior to the first Sunday of the month.*)

Find out more by logging into the "Member Only" tab on the website (accessible from the drop-down menu located within the three lines at the upper right of the menu bar.)



SCHS ARCHIVES

Our video archive featuring past meetings and events is growing! In case you missed a webinar, they are on our YouTube channel for posterity, reference or just in case you wish to see your favorites once more.

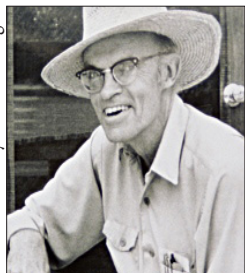
Click to link to our YouTube channel here.

SEPTEMBER HOTY WEBINAR RECAP • MONTHLY GARDEN SHARE

In September, the SCHS presented its annual Horticulturist of the Year Award Program as a virtual event. While we were saddened not to enjoy the evening in the company of friends, and missed our wonderful Silent Auction, we were very pleased to posthumously honor three recipients who had not been awarded in years past.

SCHS Vice President Steve Gerischer provided a brief history of the Horticulturist of the Year Award and introduced the presenters who would be speaking about the evening's honorees.

Photo courtesy of SBBG.org.



Board member and former HOTY recipient Carol Bornstein spoke about her former mentor and colleague, Dara Emery. He served as the

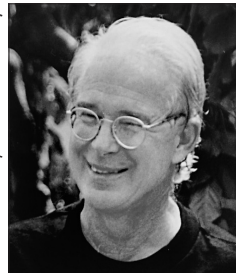
first horticulturist for the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden from 1955 until his death in 1992 and is widely recognized for his contributions to the advancement of native plant horticulture throughout California, and as a plant breeder.

Bornstein spoke about how he inspired people directly and indirectly through his extensive work, and she shared through words and pictures how Emery "wore many hats", both literally and figuratively, in his many roles at SBBG. An avid plant collector and propagator, Emery introduced numerous plant selections to the trade, launched the garden's Fall Plant Sales in 1962, and also started the Garden Growers Retail Nursery and their Plant Introduction Program. In 1988 he authored the still popular book, *Seed Propagation of California Native Plants*, recently reprinted by SBBG.

In addition to reflecting on her own memories of Emery, Bornstein shared quotes about him from colleagues Mike Evans, Dave Fross, Nevin Smith and Randy Baldwin and shared photos of some of his 21 native plant introductions, some named for him. To honor his work as a teacher and mentor, the SBBG created the annual Dara Emery Memorial Lecture Series in 1992, which continues to present day.

Emery's remarkable contributions to horticulture in general and California in particular have already influenced multiple generations, and will continue

Photo courtesy of Kurutz family.



to inspire future gardeners as well. The evening's second honoree was Denis Kurutz, an award-winning SoCal landscape architect, who passed in 2003.

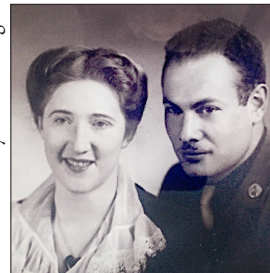
He studied at USC and gained fame during the 1970s for his re-creation of the AD 79 Villa of Papyri at the Getty Museum in Malibu, while working for Emmet L. Wemple and Associates. He was also known for his meticulous research, beautifully rendered plan drawings and detailed sketches.

Selections from Kurutz's body of work were presented by his former colleagues, landscape architects Matt Randolph and Steven Ormenyi (the latter currently serving on the SCHS board). While much of the presentation was centered on the Getty project, they also shared other examples of his many drawings as well as completed installations.

By juxtaposing images of Kurutz's initial Getty project sketches and detailed plant lists (which were selected to be as true as possible to the ancient culture he was representing), with photos of the finished gardens, his architectural talent was evident throughout. Slides showing Kurutz's drawings of columns, tile mosaics and other details on construction documents - later brought to life by tradesmen - further showcased his many artistic gifts.

In addition to sharing behind-the-scenes work Kurutz did for the Getty, his family also made available a few renderings and several beautiful ink drawings and pencil sketches of architectural details for other projects. It is in these last images that Kurutz's vision is most apparent and which

Photo courtesy of Lili Singer.



will preserve his artistic legacy.

The final presentation was made by SCHS board member and past HOTY

recipient, Lili Singer, who was honoring her parents, Bert and Manny Singer, who were well-known and respected for their work in the nursery trade and as avid growers of rare succulents.

Singer's presentation was a personal history of her family's business from the early years in Reseda where it began in their backyard, through the establishment of the San Fernando Valley-based Singer's Growing Things in 1972, where the business quickly became a popular destination for plant collectors. Additionally, their nursery catalogs, which featured photos and illustrations of rare and unusual succulents, as well as the caudiciforms they specialized in, have become quite collectible.

Despite not having any formal botanical training, the Singers learned by doing what they loved, and became active members of local gardening groups such as the L.A. Cactus and Succulent Society, the Bromeliad Society of the San Fernando Valley (co-founded by Manny) and the SCHS. They were influenced to grow and sell rare succulents after seeing these plants on trips to Baja California, and from their many associations with notable horticultural figures such as Charlie Glass and Paul Hutchison.

Randy Baldwin of San Marcos Growers named a *Sansevieria trifasciata* 'Singer's Silver' in their honor, and their 2020 HOTY award is also well-deserved. Hearing about the Singers' impact on horticulture in Southern California and beyond was a worthy tribute to a

To watch this presentation on SCHS's YouTube channel, click on the following link:



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lr87AO3bDmw>

More on SCHS can be found at:

www.facebook.com/pg/socalhort
www.instagram.com/socalhort


COVID-19 UPDATES FOR LOCAL GARDEN VENUES

Due to COVID-19 pandemic, local botanic and public gardens, as well as venues providing resources and education for gardeners, continue to offer only limited activities.

NOTE: Organizations below that have reopened as of press time are marked  Those with only an online presence, or holding virtual meetings, are marked 

Please support your local favorites, but check with individual venues for updated info if you are planning a visit. And don't forget, your local nurseries need support too!


 **CALIFORNIA BOTANIC GARDEN**
(formerly RANCHO SANTA ANA)
1500 N. College Ave., Claremont 91711
909.625.8767 www.calbg.org

 **CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY**
SAN GABRIEL MOUNTAINS CHAPTER
1750 N. Altadena Dr., Pasadena 91107
818.398.5420 www.cnps-sgm.org

 **CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY**
L.A. / Sta Monica Mtns Chapter / Sepulveda Garden Ctr
16633 Magnolia Blvd., Encino 91436
818-782-9346 www.lacnps.org

 **COASTKEEPER GARDEN**
1560 E. Santiago Cyn. Rd., Orange 92869
714.850.1965 www.coastkeeper.org

 **DESCANSO GARDENS**
1418 Descanso Drive, La Canada 91011
818.949.7980 www.descansogardens.org

 **EATON CANYON NATURE CENTER**
1750 N. Altadena Dr., Pasadena 91107
626.398.5420 www.ecnca.org

 **FULLERTON ARBORETUM**
1900 Associated Road, Fullerton 92831
657.278.3407 www.fullertonarboretum.org

 **HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS**
1151 Oxford Road, San Marino 91108
626.405.2100 www.huntington.org

 **LOS ANGELES COUNTY ARBORETUM**
301 N. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia 91007
626.821.4623 www.arboretum.org

 **NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM OF L.A.**
900 Exposition Blvd., Los Angeles 90007
213.763.3466 www.nhm.org

 **RANCHO LOS ALAMITOS**
6400 E. Bixby Hill Rd., Long Beach 90815
562.431.3541 www.rancholosalamitos.org

 **RANCHO LOS CERRITOS**
4600 Virginia Road, Long Beach 90807
562.206.2040 www.rancholoscerritos.org

 **SAN DIEGO BOTANIC GARDEN**
230 Quail Gardens Dr., Encinitas 92024
760.436.3036 www.sdbgarden.org

 **SOUTH COAST BOTANIC GARDEN**
26300 Crenshaw Blvd., Palos Verdes 90274
310.544.1948 www.southcoastbotanicgarden.org

 **THEODORE PAYNE FOUNDATION**
10459 Tuxford St., Sun Valley 91352
818.768.1802 www.theodorepayne.org

 **UC RIVERSIDE BOTANIC GARDENS**
900 University Ave., Riverside 92521
951-784-6962 www.gardens.ucr.edu

Visit www.socalhort.org for more information about venues and events.

SCHS MONTHLY GARDEN SHARE

As the weather cools at last, you can begin your annual fall clean-up and planting projects!

- Prune back perennial shrubs
 - Clean excess leaf build-up, but leave some to decompose or supplement with fresh mulch
 - Remove any dead plants and replace or plant something new
 - Begin putting in your cool season vegetables
 - Start clearing and prepping for any big planting projects that can commence this month
 - Go for an inspirational walk and
- Enjoy being outdoors again!***

 Sabine Steinmetz

STUDENT FELLOWSHIP/GRANT OPPORTUNITY

SCHS would like to share this information with our student members and supporters, as an opportunity to further their careers in horticulture.

The Garden Club of America 2021 Hope Goddard Iselin Fellowship is an opportunity offered in partnership with the American Public Gardens Association. This fellowship in Public Horticulture awards up to a \$5,000 grant to a student enrolled in a graduate-level university program




to study public horticulture through experiential learning that takes place at a recognized public garden, botanic garden, arboretum, or other closely aligned public horticulture institution.



American
Public Gardens
Association

Link to: Application/Nomination
Deadline: February 1, 2021

Until we are able to meet again in person, monthly programs will continue to be scheduled as online webinars.

-  October 8 WEBINAR - Florence Nishida from the Natural History Museum of L.A. County on Growing Asian Vegetables in L.A.
-  November 12 WEBINAR - Dennis Mudd, creator of Calscape, speaking about Native Restoration Landscaping
-  December 10 - Program details TBA

GARDEN QUOTE OF THE MONTH

*"Is this not a true autumn day?
Just the still melancholy that I love ~
that makes life
and nature harmonize."*

- George Eliot

OCTOBER

John Schoustra - President, Field-Trip Committee, Finance Committee, Plant Raffle, Plant Sales at meetings

Steven Gerischer - Vice President, Oral History Committee, PR

Laura Bauer - Treasurer, Finance Committee, Website Committee, HOTY Event Committee, Voicemail

Pat Steen - Membership Secretary, Recording Secretary, Field Trip and Coffee-in-the-Garden Committees, Greeter

Carol Aronson - Field Trip & Coffee-in-the-Garden Committees, Program Committee

Carol Bornstein - Program Committee

Aprille Curtis - Social Media Committee, Plant Forum supplies

Fleur Nooyen - Program Committee

Steven Ormenyi - Finance Committee

Yoav Paskowitz - Finance Committee, Oral History Committee, Website Committee, Newsletter Copy Editor

Yvonne Savio - Horticultural Happenings, Field Trip and Coffee-in-the-Garden Committees

Lili Singer - Board Nomination Committee, PR, Archives, Social Media Committee

Sabine Steinmetz - Newsletter Editor, Sharing Secrets, Graphic Design

Jill Vig - Coffee-in-the-Garden Committee, Oral History Committee, Special Projects

Connect with us at: **818-567-1496** • socalhort.org • facebook.com/socalhort • instagram.com/socalhort

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Contributors to this issue: Carol Bornstein, Steven Ormenyi, Lili Singer

Next deadline: Monday, October 12 (for November newsletter)
Please contribute an article or information of interest.



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Pasadena CA 91109-4476

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