



# SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

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

socalhort.org

NEWSLETTER

March 2021

## OUR NEXT VIRTUAL MEETING

**Thursday, March 11**

Announcements at 7:10 p.m.

Plant Forum at 7:15 p.m.

**Webinar at 7:30 p.m.**



Visit: [www.socalhort.org](http://www.socalhort.org)  
for registration info.

## SCHS WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

*The new season brings us:*

**Katie Barnes  
Karin Benson  
Cynthia Jackson  
Caitlin Keller  
Laurie Liles  
John Nestor  
Phyllis Schmidt**

*Thank you for joining us!*

## CONNECT WITH SCHS

Please engage with us online!

### FIND US AT:

[www.socalhort.org](http://www.socalhort.org)  
[www.facebook.com/pg/socalhort](https://www.facebook.com/pg/socalhort)  
[www.instagram.com/socalhort](https://www.instagram.com/socalhort)



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

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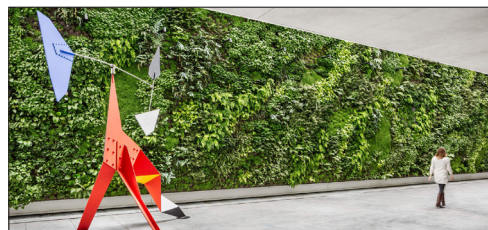
## Designing Living Walls for the Urban Environment

On March 11, the monthly SCHS webinar will be presented by David Brenner, a leader in designing world-class living wall systems. He will emphasize critical factors in designing living walls, an overview of different systems for small to large installations, and the benefits of plant life in work and living spaces. He is known for bringing a deep expertise and artistic intent to enhance the sensory and environmental impact of each architectural and interior design project. His commissions range from projects for Fortune 100 companies to architectural projects of international renown and he will be sharing a selection of these during his program.

Brenner holds a degree in Environmental Horticulture Sciences from California Polytechnic University at San Luis Obispo and studied at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew in London. He is also the founding principal and lead designer at the vertical landscaping firm Habitat Horticulture, where his expertise with growing mediums and plant species interaction led to the development of proprietary and durable techniques that established the company as a force in vertical garden design. Brenner sees his

work as an integral part of a public shift in consciousness towards the restorative effect of plants on health and well-being. It is his belief that designing living walls affords the chance to promote awareness of native and endangered plant species and to have a direct impact on quality of life.

As a dedicated collaborator on residential, commercial, and public spaces of any size, Brenner frequently speaks on the benefit of living walls in urban architecture. His work has been featured in publications including Wall Street Journal, Dwell, Architectural Digest, Wired, Work Design Magazine, and San Francisco Magazine. He was also honored by The San Francisco Business Times as one of their 2019 "Top 40 Under 40" class.



"Living Wall" at SFMOMA Photo by: Garry Belinsky

The topic of living walls and vertical landscaping is an intriguing and fresh topic for the horticultural society, and we anticipate the opportunity to learn more about it from this renowned expert. You can join us for this unique program by registering at: [www.socalhort.org](http://www.socalhort.org).

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

### PLANT FORUM RESUMES

In March, we pick up again with our popular Plant Forum, which is open to all members who would like to share their plants be it for show and tell, identification or to have a question answered by an SCHS expert.

A link to the submission form is in the first paragraph on our website's home page, or

*[Click here to show us your plants!](#)*



### SCHS GROWING ONLINE

During the last month we were pleased to have seven people join the SCHS as members. Half of them took advantage of our new online membership level, which we are hoping will appeal to a broad range of garden enthusiasts.

Since we have been hosting a monthly webinar in lieu of meeting in person, our viewing audience has also expanded beyond Southern California. While our topics are geared to horticulture as it is practiced in, and relates to SoCal, we know that the gardening world at large always benefits from shared knowledge.

We are grateful for all of the people who are tuning in and supporting the SCHS as we continue to grow via our online presence. Please tell your friends to visit us via their preferred platform at:

[www.socalhort.org](http://www.socalhort.org)  
[www.facebook.com/pg/socalhort](https://www.facebook.com/pg/socalhort)  
[www.instagram.com/socalhort](https://www.instagram.com/socalhort)

*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.*

On February 11, the SCHS proudly presented its inaugural program in the newly-established Ruth Borun Lecture Series (a special annual presentation to augment our usual monthly programs) with speaker Jennifer Jewell, host of the weekly public radio program and podcast *Cultivating Place*. She focused her presentation on her philosophy — that gardeners and gardens are powerful agents and spaces for potentially positive change in our world. She showcased individuals who are manifesting change through horticulture in diverse ways, and also improving health and well-being. While Jewell never met Ruth Borun, she did cite her as just such an individual who exemplified these ideals in the building and ongoing evolution of her own garden.

Jewell began her presentation by positing that common ground between people transcends differences and can create a mind set shift through behavioral changes. It is her belief that individual gardeners and their choices can have an impact on our communities and the larger world through a “culture of care.” To illustrate this philosophy of empowerment through gardening, she wrote about 75 women doing important plant-based work in her book *The Earth in Her Hands*. Through their experiential diversity, combined with values, priorities and leadership, these people are influencing others to have a meaningful impact on communities world-wide.

With occupations ranging from botanists to plantspeople, agriculture to floriculture, landscape designers to horticultural writers, herbalists, public policy makers and more, Jewell chose to present the work of a small, but diverse group of people who are producing this ripple effect. They included: Leah Penniman of Soul Fire Farm (est. 2010), whose mission is to uproot racism in the food system by training the next generation of activist-farmers and strengthening the movements

for food sovereignty and community self-determination; Dr. Elaine Ingham, of Soil Food Web, working since the 1980s on improving soil health worldwide through encouraging cultural practices that support microbial ecosystems and de-emphasize the use of chemicals; Erin Benzakein of Floret Flowers, whose organic flower farm (est. 2008) has been a template for the growth of small to medium-sized U.S.-based organic floriculturists as local economic and environmental drivers; and professor Dr. Robin Wall Kimmerer of SUNY college, the author of *Braiding Sweetgrass*, which focuses on the intersection of scientific and indigenous botany, and how a combination of these horticultural practices help support a healthy relationship between people and plants.

In addition to these leaders in the promotion of individual and communal health and well-being through plant-based work and education, Jewell also provided a brief look at a few innovative place-based gardens from her upcoming book, *Under Western Skies*. Photographed by Caitlin Atkinson, these gardens represent places that blur the lines between cultivated and wild — living spaces which are aesthetically pleasing while also being connected to their natural environment. She feels that the best gardens — like that of Ruth Borun — are a culmination of the natural history of a place, its cultural context, and the personal life of the gardener. Examples included: the 20-year-old garden of Jim Martinez and Jim Fissel in Marfa, Texas that features 90+ native species while also incorporating views of the natural grasslands abutting the property; the home garden of landscape architect David Godshall in Los Angeles, where he occasionally allows naturalized species to take hold, creating nuances and unplanned surprises amidst his designed spaces; the 3.5-acre Nature Gardens at the Natural History Museum of L.A. County, designed in 2013

to provide a nature-inspired wildlife habitat for the public by Mia Lehrer, and nurtured under the directorship of horticulturist Carol Bornstein (recently retired); the wildlife-friendly native garden created by artist Sheila Ford Richmond in Hood River, Oregon, who then rallied others to assist in converting a local space into a habitat garden benefitting the greater community; and the Thomas the Apostle Center, a retreat in Wyoming that has been restored by caretaker Jay Moody from a property comprised of lawns and flower borders into a wild refuge that blends into the surrounding natural landscape.

Jewell concluded her presentation by stating that “Our gardens are more than just spaces. They are moral, social, physical and political documents... compasses for us in what they say and don’t say.” We believe Ruth Borun’s love of gardening, which through her family has allowed the SCHS to establish this lecture series, speaks clearly to Ruth’s legacy. We know the family was watching this evening and hope they feel Ruth would have enjoyed this presentation as much as we did.

We look forward to what the future of the Ruth Borun Lecture Series will share.

✂ Sabine Steinmetz

To watch this program on YouTube, click the following link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X-pQrFpHCHU>

## SCHS MONTHLY GARDEN SHARE

Celebrate the vernal equinox in your garden this month by:

- Staying on top of weeding now to avoid headaches later
- Spreading a fresh layer of mulch
- Planting tomatoes and other warm season veggies
- Adjusting watering based on the month’s rainfall (or lack of)
- Putting in annuals now that are “must haves” in your garden
- Enjoying the seasonal show!

✂ Sabine Steinmetz

## PHS WELCOMES NEW DIRECTOR

The Pacific Horticulture Society (PHS) announced the appointment of Sarah Beck as its new Executive Director, effective last month. She most recently held the position of Director, Programs and Education at the American Public Gardens Association, the leading professional organization for the field of public horticulture. During her more than seven years there, Beck launched the



Photo courtesy of PHS

Climate and Sustainability Alliance, led the pivot of their annual conference to a virtual format in 2020, and guided federal grants programs and partnerships.

“I am excited to work with Pacific Horticulture’s engaged members and bring horticultural expertise and inspiration to a broader audience,” Beck says. “At this critical time, sharing the power of plants to heal is needed more than ever.”

Beck has long been enchanted by the wild and cultivated landscapes of the West Coast and has lived in Santa Cruz, California since 2018.

Learn more about SCHS and check us out online at:

[www.facebook.com/pg/socalhort](http://www.facebook.com/pg/socalhort) • [www.instagram.com/socalhort](http://www.instagram.com/socalhort) • [www.socalhort.org](http://www.socalhort.org)



## MARCH HORTICULTURAL HAPPENINGS

### COVID-19 UPDATES FOR LOCAL GARDEN VENUES

Venues open at press time are marked  and  for those that are online only.

Please continue to check with individual venues for updated info if you are planning a visit.

### CHARITABLE GIVE-AWAY & PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITY

#### March 8 - International Women's Day - Gather Tulips Event

Petals for Hope, is a non-profit organization that repurposes fresh flowers after events and shares them with people in less than desirable circumstances. On March 8 they are partnering with floral designer Sarah Campbell of Intrigue Design Netflix fame and tulip growers of the U.S. to "Gather Tulips" and pass out 25,000 tulips to women on the frontline, in

nursing homes, women's shelters, and more. You can celebrate this day too, by getting a bunch at your local store for your favorite women.

For details, contact Katie Dubow, [katie@gardenmediagroup.com](mailto:katie@gardenmediagroup.com), call 610-444-3040, or visit [www.gathertulips.com](http://www.gathertulips.com).

#### New Listing: WATERWISE COMMUNITY CENTER, CHINO BASIN WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Visit [www.cbwcd.org/calendar.aspx](http://www.cbwcd.org/calendar.aspx) to see their calendar of online classes.


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

 **CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY**  
SAN GABRIEL MOUNTAINS CHAPTER  
1750 N. Altadena Dr., Pasadena 91107  
818.398.5420 [www.cnps-sgm.org](http://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.lasmmcnps.org](http://www.lasmmcnps.org)

 **COASTKEEPER GARDEN**  
1560 E. Santiago Cyn. Rd., Orange 92869  
714.850.1965 [www.coastkeeper.org](http://www.coastkeeper.org)

 **DESCANSO GARDENS**  
1418 Descanso Drive, La Canada 91011  
818.949.7980 [www.descansogardens.org](http://www.descansogardens.org)

 **EATON CANYON NATURE CENTER**  
1750 N. Altadena Dr., Pasadena 91107  
626.398.5420 [www.ecnca.org](http://www.ecnca.org)

 **FULLERTON ARBORETUM**  
1900 Associated Road, Fullerton 92831  
657.278.3407 [www.fullertonarboretum.org](http://www.fullertonarboretum.org)

 **HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS**  
1151 Oxford Road, San Marino 91108  
626.405.2100 [www.huntington.org](http://www.huntington.org)

 **LOS ANGELES COUNTY ARBORETUM**  
301 N. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia 91007  
626.821.4623 [www.arboretum.org](http://www.arboretum.org)

 **NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM OF L.A.**  
900 Exposition Blvd., Los Angeles 90007  
213.763.3466 [www.nhm.org](http://www.nhm.org)

 **RANCHO LOS ALAMITOS**  
6400 E. Bixby Hill Rd., Long Beach 90815  
562.431.3541 [www.rancholosalamitos.org](http://www.rancholosalamitos.org)

 **RANCHO LOS CERRITOS**  
4600 Virginia Road, Long Beach 90807  
562.206.2040 [www.rancholoscerritos.org](http://www.rancholoscerritos.org)

 **SAN DIEGO BOTANIC GARDEN**  
230 Quail Gardens Dr., Encinitas 92024  
760.436.3036 [www.sdbgarden.org](http://www.sdbgarden.org)

 **SOUTH COAST BOTANIC GARDEN**  
26300 Crenshaw Blvd., Palos Verdes 90274  
310.544.1948 [www.southcoastbotanicgarden.org](http://www.southcoastbotanicgarden.org)

 **THEODORE PAYNE FOUNDATION**  
10459 Tuxford St., Sun Valley 91352  
818.768.1802 [www.theodorepayne.org](http://www.theodorepayne.org)

 **UC RIVERSIDE BOTANIC GARDENS**  
900 University Ave., Riverside 92521  
951-784-6962 [www.gardens.ucr.edu](http://www.gardens.ucr.edu)

 *Yvonne Savio*

To see more events as they're posted, check: [www.gardeninginla.net/submit-your-garden-events](http://www.gardeninginla.net/submit-your-garden-events).

### SCHS BOARD SEEKING NOMINATIONS FOR 2021 HOTY HONOREES

The SCHS board is currently beginning preparations for our annual Horticulturist of the Year Award ceremonies, to be held in September. While we do not yet know if this year's event will be virtual or live, at this time we are actively discussing potential honorees, and would like to solicit any nominations that members would like to put forth.

In 2020, for the first time since the HOTY award was first presented over 50 years ago, the ceremony was held online and three recipients were honored posthumously. This year, we may again present more than one award, and therefore any and all suggestions from members would be

greatly appreciated. You may nominate one or more living or deceased candidates, as we know our membership has diverse ties to the wide horticultural community throughout Southern California and many worthy individuals have not yet been honored by the SCHS.

Please think about whom you would like to see honored as a HOTY, and contact the board through our website.

**Click to link to our "Contact" page here.**

*Thank you for participating.  
We are excited to see your nominees!*

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

-  March 11  
WEBINAR - David Brenner, founder of Habitat Horticulture to present a program about living walls
-  April 8  
WEBINAR - Michael Martinez, master gardener and founder of L.A. Compost will speak about home composting
-  May 13  
WEBINAR - Rebecca Burgess, executive director of Fibershed will speak on "Native Plant Palettes; Creating Dyes from our Fibershed"
-  June 10  
WEBINAR - Garden photographer Saxon Holt will share some of his photos from Nora Harlow's new book *Gardening in Summer-Dry Climates*

## GARDEN QUOTE OF THE MONTH



Southern California  
Horticultural Society  
P.O. Box 94476  
Pasadena CA 91109-4476

NEWSLETTER March 2021

**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

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Newsletter Editor: Sabine Steinmetz

Contributors: David Brenner, Yvonne Savio

**Next deadline: Monday, March 15** (for April newsletter)

*Please contribute an article or information of interest.*