From The Prez

The new year is finally upon us and our society is thriving. We have had several good years of sales, new members and great potlucks. I hope this trend continues. We have renewed the contract for the Aptos Grange and we have pushed our time of entry up to 6PM. This will hopefully alleviate the standing around time waiting for the door to open. We will still start our meeting at the regular time of 7PM.

We have discussed getting some judges training into our calendar for our meetings and I am looking into having a few judges training sessions that would start at 6PM and last an hour. This would be a great service to our current judges as well as those wanting to be a judge in the future. Whether or not you plan on being a judge or not, the training helps to understand the rules and regulations of the standards and classification of the American Iris Society pertaining to what is takes to be a great plant and flower. More on this later.

December was a really great month and the annual Christmas birdhouse exchange was a huge success. Kathy Hartman did a stellar job of putting it together...again. Her time and energy are well spent on this event and I hear many positive comments about it from the members. We have such a good party because of all the rhizome donators, garden diggers and sales workers that make our sales awesome. I thank you all!

January Birthdays

- Rosa Radicchi Jan 1
- Barbara Hanson Jan 3
- Larissa Daniel Jan 8
- Irene Cummins Jan 10
- Vickie Hinkley Jan 14
- Mary Helen Chrisman Jan 11
- Mikey Lango Jan 17
- Wayne Craft Jan 18
- Kathy Hartman Jan 20
- Jeff Helms Jan 30

Happy Happy!

Brenda steals a bird house
I am sad to report that a longtime member of the iris world, Philippa Alvis, passed away just prior to her 95th birthday on December 21st, 2023. I met her when I joined MBIS and she spoke to me about the basics of garden etiquette, the intricacies of Region 14 politics and the reasons to be a member of the American Iris Society. It was all new to me when I first joined and her early counsel provided some basic knowledge of what lay ahead. I will miss her not only at our regular meetings, but also at the Regionals and Nationals that she was so fond of. Peace be with you Philippa.

See you at the meeting! 😊 Craig

**DUES ARE LATE**

Single dues are $10. Two or more at the same address, $15. Add $10 if you want the newsletter by mail. Please pay at the January meeting, or send your renewal to our treasurer, Diane Sampson, 7 Cutter Cove, Watsonville, CA. 95076, Phone: 831-206-1444. Memberships that are not renewed will be dropped.

**Philippa Alvis**

**December 22, 1928 – December 21, 2023**

Last month, the December birthdays were posted in the newsletter and Philippa’s was one of them. She would have been 95 years old on December 22. Sadly, she passed away on December 21, a young 94. She had been enjoying her stay in New York with her daughter, Joanne, making wreaths and swag decorations for Christmas, planting succulents for her daughter to give as gifts, and going to West Point for their Christmas musical performance. As always, Philippa was enjoying life to the fullest until a massive stroke swiftly took her out.

Philippa wore many hats in her long life. She was a teacher, wife, mother, Santa Clara Master Gardener, AIS judge, past CBRIS president (1993-1995), member of Clara B. Rees and Monterey Bay Iris Societies, Western Horticulture Society, the Camellia Society, the Rose Society and probably others. Perhaps most significant of all, she was a student—always curious, always learning, always excited about the next growing season, the next holiday and the next shopping adventure! A true gardener, she always looked forward to tomorrow and fully expected to be here. Her contribution to Clara B. (and MBIS) cannot be overestimated. She was always willing to take on any task and was an excellent recruiter, as it was impossible to say no to her! She kept us on our toes and let us know when we violated the bylaws or forgot to mention an important point.

Philippa will be greatly missed. RIP Philippa.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Dahout, CBRIS President

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**Board of Directors 2023**

**President**
Craig Tarr  cht2325@yahoo.com  408 425-7207

**Past President**
Barbara Hanson  barbara@barbaraaltc.com  831 335-4949

**Vice President**
Wayne Crabbs  wayne@lomaprieta.us  408 353-4089

**Treasurer**
Diane Sampson  dianesampson@baymoon.com  831 206-1444

**Secretary**
Brenda Wood  woodbrenda@aol.com  831 724-5415
Jim Cummins  jcummins@pachell.net  831 438-1369

**Show Co-Chairs**
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Lisa Caras  lisac@igneous.com  831-419-3799

**Newsletter**
Joe Ghio  ghiobayview@att.net  831 423-3656
Ann Pike  avpike@cruzio.com  831 426-8855

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Lloyd Clark  Joanne Abel
Anna Helms  Elena Laborde
Linda Melton  Linda Lomperis

**2 Year Board**
Shirley Trio  shirleyjtrio@gmail.com  209 551-6323

**Contacts**
**Hospitality & Refreshments**
Shirley Trio  shirleyjtrio@gmail.com  209 551-6323

**Birthday List**
**CULTURE TIPS**

As seems to be the usual case lately, we had plentiful rain early which gets the weeds germinating early. It is better and easier to hoe and remove them when the soil is drier. The irises are dried up as much as they will be for the season. New growth begins showing up in early February. Prior to this growth spurt remove the dead and sick foliage and then fertilize as the new growth begins in February. We fertilize with a balanced fertilizer like 10-10-10 or triple 12, whichever is cheaper. Costco often has similar fertilizer available at this time of the year.

Spread handfuls around your irises and raked in lightly. The wet soil and rain will work it into the soil and the irises will thrive. Interestingly, rust on the irises used to be a major problem here on the Coast. With the climate changes we are experiencing now, it isn’t much of a problem anymore. If a variety is likely to “get” the rust, it pretty much disappear as the climate “heats” up as the weather “warms” up. *Joe

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**EVENTS FOR 2024**

Regular meetings are on the third Friday of the month.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 19</td>
<td>Meeting</td>
<td>“You too can grow Arilbreds”, Jeff Bennet</td>
<td>Aptos Grange</td>
<td>7:00 P.M.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 16</td>
<td>Meeting</td>
<td>The origin of MBIS/50th anniversary, Joe Ghio</td>
<td>Aptos Grange</td>
<td>7:00 P.M.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 15</td>
<td>Meeting</td>
<td>Mini show, Joe Ghio</td>
<td>Aptos Grange</td>
<td>7:00 P.M.</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 12</td>
<td>Iris Show</td>
<td>Set-up</td>
<td>London Nelson</td>
<td>7:00 P.M.</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 13</td>
<td>Iris Show</td>
<td>Iris Promotion</td>
<td>London Nelson</td>
<td>1–6:00 P.M.</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 14</td>
<td>Iris Show</td>
<td>Iris Promotion</td>
<td>London Nelson</td>
<td>NOON–6:00 P.M.</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 19</td>
<td>Meeting</td>
<td>Show Wrap</td>
<td>Aptos Grange</td>
<td>7:00 P.M.</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 19, 20</td>
<td>Spring Regional</td>
<td></td>
<td>Sacramento</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>May 17</td>
<td>Meeting</td>
<td>Show Awards/Pizza</td>
<td>Aptos Grange</td>
<td>7:00 P.M.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 21</td>
<td>Meeting</td>
<td>to be announced</td>
<td>Aptos Grange</td>
<td>7:00 P.M.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 26–29</td>
<td>AIS National Convention</td>
<td></td>
<td>Portland, OR</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 20</td>
<td>Summer Picnic</td>
<td></td>
<td>Cummins’</td>
<td>11:00 A.M.–3:00 P.M.</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 3</td>
<td>Iris Sale</td>
<td>More Irises</td>
<td>Deer Park</td>
<td>9:00 A.M.–NOON.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 10</td>
<td>Iris Sale</td>
<td>Fund-raiser</td>
<td>Cabrillo Mkt</td>
<td>8:00 A.M.NOON</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 17</td>
<td>Iris Sale</td>
<td>Fund-raiser</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 16</td>
<td>Meeting</td>
<td>to be announced</td>
<td>Aptos Grange</td>
<td>7:00 P.M.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 20</td>
<td>Meeting</td>
<td>Beardless Iris?</td>
<td>Aptos Grange</td>
<td>7:00 P.M.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 18</td>
<td>Meeting</td>
<td>Pacific Coast Iris</td>
<td>Aptos Grange</td>
<td>7:00 P.M.</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 15</td>
<td>Meeting</td>
<td>to be announced</td>
<td>Aptos Grange</td>
<td>7:00 P.M.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 20</td>
<td>Holiday Party</td>
<td>Celebration</td>
<td>Pasatiempo</td>
<td>5:00 P.M.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Bay News, January, 2024  www.montereybayiris.org
Holiday Party 2023
This Year’s annual Christmas celebration! Great company and food.
Thanks to Kathy a great time was had by all.

Linda has the bird house now
Now the bird house has new home
1. ALL STITCHED UP, Johnson
2. AMERICA’S TOP MODEL, Black
3. AMETHYST ANGEL, Johnson
4. AS YOU WISH, Johnson
5. BAD HABITS, Johnson
6. BIG AS THE MOON, Schreiner
7. BOYSENBERY DRIZZLE, Black
8. BY YOUR SIDE, Sutton
9. COLORFAST, Keppel
10. DAMSEL IN LACE, Miller
11. EASTER CANDY, Keppel, 2011
12. EMBELLISHED, Keppel
13. EVENING STROLL, Johnson
14. FIZZED OUT, Sutton
15. GALA GLOW, Keppel
16. HAND CRAFTED, Ghio
17. HEAD OF THE CLASS, Johnson
18. LAST WORD, Johnson
19. LET ME BE THERE, Johnson
20. MAMA QUEL, Sutton
21. MIGHTY POWER, Sutton
22. MONET PAINTING, Miller
23. ON THE COVER, Johnson
24. POWER BALLAD, Sutton
Re-Bloomers
Bring your blooms to share! First drawing goes to those who have brought blooms. Rebloomer drawing starts in August and goes until February.

DOOR PRIZES IRISES
1. ALL STITCHED UP, Johnson
2. AMERICA'S TOP MODEL, Black
3. AMETHYST ANGEL, Johnson
4. AS YOU WISH, Johnson
5. BAD HABITS, Johnson
6. BIG AS THE MOON, Schreiner
7. BOYSENBERRY DRIZZLE, Black
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20. MAMA QUEL, Sutton
21. MIGHTY POWER, Sutton
22. MONET PAINTING, Miller
23. ON THE COVER, Johnson
24. POWER BALLAD, Sutton
25. RAINBOWS AND SUNSHINE, Ghio
26. SATAN’S TANGO, Black
27. SIMPLE MAGIC, Johnson, 2022
28. SOMEBODY SPECIAL, Keppel
29. THIS IS CRAZY, Johnson
30. YOU GROW GIRL, Schreiner