**SCHS WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS**

We look forward to meeting and celebrating with the following new members:

Deborah Hartnett  
Jonathan Harnish  
Scott Kleinrock & Kyra Saegusa  
Alicia Peterson  
April Garbat Vaughan  

www.socalhort.org

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**SCHS HOLIDAY PROGRAM: Travels to Madagascar**

Our December meeting will feature co-presenters, Kathy Musial and Steve Gerischer, talking about the October 2012 trips the Pacific Horticulture Society (PHS) booked to Madagascar. When the first expedition led by Kathy quickly sold out, the PHS immediately added a second tour escorted by Steve. They will be sharing their experiences from both trips to this botanically-rich island nation, accompanied by a slide show.

Located off the southeast coast of Africa, Madagascar has a remarkable number of endemic plants and animals, living in habitats ranging from a rainforest in the east to an arid spiny forest in the south. After splitting from the Indian peninsula 88 million years ago, Madagascar’s flora and fauna developed in relative isolation. This global biodiversity hotspot faces many challenges as the nation struggles to protect and conserve the sparse natural areas that remain, while dealing with the needs of poverty stricken local inhabitants and destructive influences from within and abroad.

Our presenters will be drawing on their combined trove of botanical knowledge to enhance this special program. Kathy is Curator of Living Collections at the Huntington Library and Gardens, the 2015 recipient of the SCHS Horticulturist of the Year Award, and has served on the boards of both the PHS and the SCHS. Steve is the current president of both the SCHS and the PHS, owner of Larkspur Garden Design, and lectures locally on a variety of gardening topics.

We look forward to a botanical discovery tour of Madagascar in this special program presented by two of SCHS’s own members.

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**SCHS HOLIDAY PARTY**

In addition to having a holiday program with two wonderful speakers and a slide show, the December meeting will also feature these other seasonal activities...

**SWEETS & TREATS**

We invite you to bring a sweet or savory treat to share with those attending the party. Many of our members are not only successful gardeners, but equally skilled in the kitchen, as we have discovered at past events where they have generously contributed tasty food items - yum.

**GIVE-AWAY TABLE**

This annual tradition allows members to donate “gently used” treasures of a horticultural nature to be shared with others in a free give-away. Enjoy the charitable spirit of the season by participating in the giving and receiving!

**EARLY-BIRD SHOPPING**

Whether you are treating yourself to a new addition for your own garden, or just indulging in some holiday gift shopping, we will have a variety of plants available for purchase. The vendors will no doubt inspire your seasonal decorating and enrich your garden plans for the new year!
Our November speaker, Sasha Duerr, traveled from the San Francisco Bay Area to present us with an intriguing program about the slow fashion movement and the integral part plants have in it. She is an artist, designer and professor who works with organic dyes and alternative fibers, and she advocates for the creative reuse of materials. At the California College of the Arts (CCA) in Oakland, she holds a joint appointment in textiles and fine arts, and is the founder of the Permacouture Institute (www.permacouture.org), which promotes the use of regenerative design practices for fashion and textiles. Duerr’s lovely presentation focused on the making and use of plant-based dyes and was illustrated by slides featuring projects from her book, *Natural Color* (Watson-Guptill/Random House 2016).

Duerr began her program with a brief autobiography, which included growing up in Maine and Hawaii with plenty of exposure to nature. She studied to become a painter at Middlebury College in Vermont, where illnesses from exposure to paints led to her experimentation with natural dyes and pigmentation. She completed her thesis at CCA in Slow Food and Slow Textiles and currently focuses her teaching and studies on what she calls the “alchemy of the landscape”, including how it can be applied as seasonal color in the fashion world.

She showed us project ideas using dyes made from ingredients foraged seasonally, including spring color derived from roses, fig leaves, quince branches and avocado fruit; summer hues extracted from fennel, passion vine, aloe and loquat; and winter dyes made from citrus, as well as from cones and branches of redwood, pine and yew tree. Her slides featured textiles, clothing, and also tablecloths and napkins, which were shown paired with seasonal foods.

Duerr’s interest in natural systems for color and textiles led her to establish the Permacouture Institute in 2007. One idea the organization focuses on is whether products and systems are natural or artificial, and how to begin adjusting our perceptions to include more of the natural. For example: integrating by-products of items we already use for other purposes before discarding the remainder, such as a pomegranate, wherein we use the seeds as a food source, but typically discard the rind, which can be used as a dye color source. This type of creative thinking led to her work with cooks, where she experiments with using their left-over food scraps to dye fabrics.

After hosting a number of popular “Dinners to Dye For”, where she cued her “compost colors” from sources such as onion and citrus peels and avocado pits, Duerr teamed up with Kelsie Kerr to collaborate on a Berkeley-based farm-to-table enterprise where they demonstrate the relationship between recipes and biodiversity. This on-going relationship led to a full year of workshops, wherein Duerr experimented with a large variety of plants in ways that have been lost to us, including medicinal textiles.

Duerr explained how dye colors are dynamic - shifting at different times of day, with seasonality and through their processing. She created a seasonal color wheel for the Bay Area, showing dye color sources for different times of the year. As a teacher, Duerr regulates what students put into their dye pots to avoid toxicity, and is careful to only pass along proven processes, including disposal of the dyes. By using all plants from the plants she finds when foraging locally, she continues to learn about fiber durability, color fastness and the chemical effects of different plant-based ingredient combinations. She is always seeking new uses for plants as color sources beyond dying -- as paints, or to create surface designs.

She finished her presentation by talking about local plants that people interested in learning about natural dying could begin experimenting with, such as manzanita, black walnut and assorted fruits. She also shared a color wheel that she created for the Los Angeles area, prints of which were available for purchase, along with copies of her book, *Natural Color*.

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**SCHS ANNUAL APPEAL**

Last month, we published our annual year-end appeal for your tax-deductible donations to help support the Southern California Horticultural Society in its mission to offer educational and inspiring gardening experiences to its membership.

We would like to thank those of you who have already contributed, and encourage any of you considering a donation to please give as you can. Following are some sponsorship objectives we are hoping to achieve:

- **Intern Sponsor:** Allows deserving students to intern at a local public garden.
- **Oral-History Sponsor:** Our goal is to document stories from members who have contributed so much to the horticultural world.
- **Speaker Sponsor:** $500 covers speaker and travel costs, plus you will be invited to dinner with a speaker and the SCHS Board.
- **Meeting Refreshments Sponsor:** $20 covers cost of coffee and related supplies.

With appreciation,
Steve Gerischer, President SCHS

Donation form can be found on-line at: socalhort.org

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**NOVEMBER PROGRAM RECAP • SHARING SECRETS • ANNUAL APPEAL**

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**SHARING SECRETS RESPONSES**

*Do you use any botanicals for holiday decorating? Which ones & how?*

I’ve used the dried up stalk of the *Hesperoyucca whipplei* “Our Lord’s Candle” - (never even considered the aptness of that name for my use), as my Christmas ‘tree’ for the last 3 years. It doesn’t go bad, still has a few dried seed pods on it, and spines that make it easy to hang ornaments onto, as well as a string of tiny lights. After removing the ornaments I can wrap a large sheet over it and store it in the attic for another year. The best thing is that it’s natural and visually interesting.

- Florence Nishida

I usually invite my neighbors for a wreath-making night - we’ve been doing it for probably 30 years. The bulk of the form is leaves from my neighbor’s *Magnolia ‘Little Gem’* that I planted in that yard just for this purpose. The owners at the time asked me to use a shade tree and I gave them something to make us both happy. After the Magnolia leaves, it is straight ‘della Robbia’ style with nuts, acorns, fruit, dried blooms, rose hips, clusters of oak leaves, toyon berries, etc. from our own property. Whatever I can find to add.

There’s also a Tecate cypress whose clippings get made into a single long streamer for the fireplace mantle. A barn owl calls that tree home each winter and I don’t want to take too much away.

We put up a Christmas tree outside on the backyard patio that we can view from any of three windows. It’s a tepee made from the longest trimmings off the stone fruit trees and whatever else is sturdy, long and narrow in the yard. Just strip the leaves, bind the top with jute twine and then encircle it in lights. I’m trying solar string lights this year. During the day it can look pretty funky but it is always so pretty at nighttime.

As an aside, my juniper berries are very popular for holiday cooking. I have a great recipe for cranberry sauce made with juniper berries and gin.

- Anonymous

- Catherine Pannell

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All photos by Sasha Duerr unless otherwise credited.
Please contact location(s) to confirm listed events, and for a full schedule.

Events are free with admission unless otherwise indicated.

Locations are listed by Zip Code.

J PAUL GETTY MUSEUM - GETTY CENTER
1200 Getty Center Dr., Los Angeles 90049
310-440-7300  www.getty.edu/museum

Daily, 11:30am, 12:30pm, 2:30pm, 3:30pm, 45-minute Garden Tours. Meet at bench outside entrance to tour the Central Garden, designed by artist Robert Irwin - an evolving work of art, with tree-lined walkways through extraordinary sights, sounds, and scents.

J PAUL GETTY MUSEUM - GETTY VILLA
17985 Pacific Coast Hwy., Pacific Palisades 90272
310-440-7300  www.getty.edu/museum

Thursdays & Saturdays, 10:30am, 11:30am, 12:30pm, 1:30pm, 3:30pm, 40-minute Garden Tours meet outside the entrance. Discover rich mythological and cultural connections of four ancient Roman gardens.

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY (CNPS)
L.A./Santa Monica Mtns. Chapter / 1st United Methodist 1008 11th St., Santa Monica 90403
818-782-9346  www.lacnps.org

LOS ANGELES COUNTY ARBORETUM
301 N. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia 91007
626.821.4623  arborbot.org

Saturday, 12/10/16, 10am-12noon. Garden Share. Bring garden-related items to trade - like plants, cuttings, seeds, packets, tools, produce, etc. For more info, visit: www.facebook.com/groups/OCPlantTrading.

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

Saturday, 12/10, 9am-1pm. Propagating California Native Plants with TPF Propagation Manager Jordan Isken. Learn basic skills of vegetative propagation. Various species of native plants will be discussed and started from cuttings or divisions in this hands-on session. You’ll leave with a flat of starts for your garden! Limit: 10. $50 TPF members, $60 non-members.

Saturday, 12/10, 10-11am. Aromatic Plants for the Garden with TPF Seed Program Manager Genevieve Arnold. Many California native plants are admired for their highly aromatic foliage or flowers. Take an olfactory tour of some of our favorites. Class includes beautiful images, scented samples and a walk and talk on TPF grounds. $15 TPF members, $20 non-members.

RANCHO SANTA ANA BOTANIC GARDEN
1500 N. College Ave., Claremont 91711
909.625.8767  rsabg.org

Sunday, 12/11, 10am-1pm. Medicinal Herb Walk with herbalist William Broen. Come on a walking presentation of medicinal plants from the garden. Bring hat, walking shoes, water, and snack or sack lunch. $20 members, $25 non-members. For more information or to register, go to: http://rsabg.org/community-education/

STILL LOOKING FOR HELP WITH REFRESHMENTS

We’re still looking for one more volunteer to help board members Steve Singer and Marilee Kuhlmann with the coffee/refreshments duties at our monthly meetings. If we can put together a rotating committee of three, each person can take turns bringing the urns to the meetings. Buying coffee and creamer (with SCHS reimbursing for the expense), and setting up before the meeting. Please consider volunteering. As it takes many people to make our meetings run smoothly — including having back-up personnel for coffee duty! Thank you — Steve Gerischer

We also encourage members to bring cookies or other treats to add to the table.
Meetings regularly held at Friendship Auditorium, 3201 Riverside Drive, Los Angeles CA 90027, unless otherwise noted.

December 8 - **Holiday Party** featuring: Madagascar slide show presented by Steve Gerischer & Kathy Musial, plus Sweets & Treats, Give-Away Table & Plant Sales

January 12 - Impressions of London’s Chelsea Flower Show with Shawn Maestretti, Francesca Corra, Yvonne Savio, moderated by Marilee Kuhlmann

February 9 - Robin Parer, owner of Geraniaceae Nursery and author of *The Plant Lover’s Guide to Hardy Geraniums*

**GARDEN QUOTE OF THE MONTH**

"Winter garden, the moon thinned to a thread, insects singing."

- Matsuo Basho

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**UPCOMING SCHS PROGRAMS**

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**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

- **Steven Gerischer** - President, Oral History Committee, PR, Pacific Horticulture representative, Tech Support for meetings
- **Laura Bauer** - Treasurer, Finance Committee, Website Committee
- **Pat Steen** - Membership Secretary, Recording Secretary, Coffee-in-the-Garden, Greeter
- **Carol Bornstein** - Program Committee
- **Yoav Paskowitz** - Finance Committee, Oral History Committee, Website Committee
- **Yvonne Savio** - Horticultural Happenings, Coffee-in-the-Garden, PR
- **John Schoustra** - Vice President, Field Trips, Finance Committee, Plant Raffle, Plant Sales at meetings
- **Lili Singer** - Book of the Month, Nomination Committee, Program Committee, PR, Archives
- **Jill Vig** - Coffee-in-the-Garden, Oral History Committee, Pacific Horticulture representative, Special Projects
- **Sabine Steinmetz** - Newsletter, Sharing Secrets
- **Steven Ormenyi** - Finance Committee
- **Marilee Kuhlmann** - Hospitality Committee, Program Committee
- **Carol Aronson**
- **Aprille Curtis** - Plant Forum supplies
- **Steve Singer** - Hospitality Committee

**818-567-1496 / socalhort.org / Join us on Facebook**

**Newsletter Editor:** Sabine Steinmetz

Contributors to this issue: Steve Gerischer, Yvonne Savio

**Next deadline:** **Friday, December 9** (for January newsletter)

Please contribute an article or information of interest.

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Pasadena CA 91109-4476

**NEWSLETTER** December 2016