



The Newsletter of

The Santa Rosa Iris Society

52nd YEAR NUMBER 1

JANUARY 2026

Officers 2026:

President

Ellen Johnson

Vice President

Jeff Davis

Treasurer

Kitty Loberg

Secretary

Diana Ford

Past President

Anna Cadd

Historian

Anna Cadd

Membership Secretary

Anna Cadd

Librarian

Cheryl Bryan

Newsletter Editor

Anna Marie Hermansen

Assistant Editor

Kathy McCallum

Directors thru 12/26: Linnea Polo

707-778-0143 Steve Albert

707-696-0472 Denise Plummer

707-591-5516

Directors thru 12/27:

Need Volunteer

Need Volunteer

Standing Committees:

Attendance

Diana Ford

Display Garden Chairmen

Jeff Davis

Iris Distribution Coordinator

Ellen Johnson & Linnea Polo

Hospitality

Diana and Don Ford

LBAGC Representatives

Jeff Davis

Anna Cadd

Alternate - Paul Barthlome

Photography Need Volunteer 2026

Need Volunteer

2026 Assistant Show Chairman

Need Volunteer

January 13 - LBA&GC - noon

Board meeting - continue discussing 2026 programs
and budget



President's Message - from Ellen Johnson

Happy Holidays to all! I hope everyone is enjoying time with family and friends. I would like to introduce myself to those who don't know me. I will be the new president for SRIS for 2026. My name is Ellen Johnson, and I have lived in Alexander Valley outside of Healdsburg for my whole life (never have changed my address). I have a degree in winemaking (Oenology) from Fresno State, which I put to use at my small family winery until we lost all our vines in the Kincade Fire. I have 67 acres that I still manage as I try to figure out what to plant next (more room for iris 😊), as grapes are having a hard time these days. My love of gardening came from my Grandma and I always kept her iris going. I joined the SRIS and my love of iris has grown. As we all know, they are like potato chips - you can't have just one. My iris garden has grown to over 500 different varieties. If you have seen me at iris functions, I typically have foster bottle baby kittens in tow, as I volunteer to foster and trap for Forgotten Felines of Sonoma County. I enjoy helping the kitties. I also am in charge of a small 4-H group where I lead 10+ youngsters in raising animals, and our club, of course, does lots of gardening projects. I have been involved in clubs my whole life. My parents taught us all that if you are a member of a club "get involved." I guess that is how I became president. I have big shoes to fill following Anna Cadd, but not to worry, as she will still be involved and making sure I don't miss things. She has taught me so much and I know she will continue to do so. Thank you Anna for all you do for the club.

I am also mom to 7 basset hounds, countless chickens, cats and bunnies. I have also raised Peanut, who has been in the newsletter many times. He has successfully had his lump removed, and it will not be coming back. He looks so different and is THRIVING now.

I hope your holidays are exactly what you want. Here is to a 2026 filled with beautiful iris and fun times spent in your gardens enjoying them.

Ellen



Keeping In Touch

Juanita Breckwoldt, Salem - December

“Bob is doing great and no longer in pain. I’m having trouble with AMD and have shots in my eyes to help slow things down.”

Alleah Haley - Ashboro, NC. - December 28

Alleah says “Hi” to everyone and wishes all a Happy New Year.

Betty Ford - Sonoma - December 28

“So nice to hear from you.... My life has been turned upside down this past year. Ken has been in and out of ER and the hospital several times. He is now in a Skilled Nursing Home. At least it is located here in Sonoma. He needs more surgery, but Dr. recommends Hospice. I hope that you are doing well. I miss my 'iris' family.”



Linnea Polk
Jim Begley

2026 SRIS Dates

Monday, January 12: Board meeting at LB&GC

Monday, February 9 : Noon at LBA&GC

Monday, March 9 : Noon at LBA&GC

Monday, April 13: Noon at LBA&GC

Friday, May 8: prep for the show

Saturday - Sunday: May 9 - 10: LBA&GC

Monday, May 11: cancelled due to show

Something to Look Forward To.....

2026 Spring Regional - Region 14: mid-May : Reno

Hosted by the High Desert Iris Society in Reno, Nevada

There will be two guest iris gardens, both in the Reno area. Plans are for general iris viewing, selection of iris for awards, and in-garden judges' training sessions.

2026 AIS National Convention: May 18 - 23: New Jersey and New York

Convention Hotel: Newark Liberty International Airport Marriott Hotel

2027 AIS National Convention: April 27 - May 1 (tentative) Oklahoma City



Gardening Tips For January – or New Year’s Resolutions, not in any particular order!

.....by Anna Cadd

So, I made 2026 New Year’s resolutions for the garden. How many of them will I keep?

1. Clean out the shed and go through old tools, and materials. What a mess is in mine! There is never enough time to clean the tools after a whole day of work and when it rains – all garden mud is tracked inside! If you remember our old member Dean Linscott’s tools in his shed – you will think that this was high end department store! I was impressed and jealous!
2. Take the risk, plant something new. Ok, I have several plants in pots to plant, and I am especially proud of *Acanthus mollis* – “Bear’s Breech” – variegated form. Someone told me that this plant will move me out from my house...
3. Add a new native species to your garden. I have some California native plants in bowls of water. They have already some roots and they are ready!
4. Plant something with a child. This will be tough. All kids whom I know are brats....
5. Do some garden volunteering work. I am moving my neighbor’s yard waste cans to the curb. Does it count?
6. Learn something, teach something. I am trying – some programs are already booked....
7. Plant foods you haven’t tried before. What about ornamental kale (*Brassica oleracea*)? Do you like soup from leaves of sorrel (*Rumex acetosa*)? Did you make jams from Peruvian goldenberry - (*Physalis peruviana*) or bitter orange (*Citrus x aurantium*)?
8. Go on gardening expeditions and discovery trips. I will do!
9. Treat yourself to a good gardening book. I am trying to buy “Classic Irises and the Men and Women Who Created Them” by Clarence E. Mahan. \$ 70.00 on Amazon, but worth every penny!
10. Start something from seeds. You need to see my seeds collection! I can share....
11. Invite people over to spend some time in the garden. Invitations will be sent. Will they come?
12. Document your garden, re-do labels which have faded. This is a time consuming task. The plan is to put a label on every plant in the garden. May take another 100 years to finish....
13. If possible, ask your parents and grandparents what they grew in their garden. Or write down what you remember about it. This is personal, everybody will have a different story. My Mom’s “story” was the biggest clump of Siberian iris “Caesar’s Brother” which I ever saw in any garden. It was in Poland a long time ago. This clump doesn’t exist anymore, the row of garages are there now...
14. Build a compost bin and begin composting. This means bring all the weeds back into the beds with the “organic “compost. Seeds will outlive the nuclear blast.
15. Develop a watering system for the garden, check existing watering of plants. Ah, there must exist a man who knows how to help with this task. Do you know anyone?
16. Try to keep the garden weed and pest free. For starts, I need to find my knee pads. Then buy some ointment to cure painful spots. Then buy some anesthesia pills. Then make the appointment to the doctor. Then give up. Weeds can be beautiful in the spring sun...
17. Make hot tea and cookies, and rest in sunny afternoon. Waiting for this to happen. I already ate the cookies.
18. Plan to attend some Iris Convention or go on the garden tour. Will go. They usually have good cookies and strawberries in the gardens as snacks...
19. Make some jams, preserves or sun dried tomatoes. If you have fruits, that’s easy. Sometimes the need arrives “to raid” the gardens of neighbors or friends...
20. Buy new irises, enjoy them in the spring and enter the Iris Show. When you buy them, plant them! Enter the show, because your one stalk can win the Queen of The Show! And try our Artistic Division with flower arrangements!
21. Dream about what you want to grow. That is easy. Dreams are like birds, sailing in the skies. They are cheap and they are lifting our souls to Paradise. Follow your dreams to your own piece of Heaven.....

New Year's Wishes by Anna Cadd

January 2026 is the start of another year of challenges and rewards. What is our first challenge? Writing the year 2026 instead of 2025 when we write the checks, letters, etc. As we close out the 2025 year, we can look back at the challenges we have faced and met head-on. It may not be an easy year for all of us, but I am looking forward to a peaceful New Year and the development of new ideas and solutions.

We all received many New Year wishes, but nothing sounds as true as wishes posted by Tom Gormley, AIS member from Florida a long time ago on Facebook: "I expect it's going to be a raucous New Year, but in the midst of this fever dream, please, remember..... Your job is not to judge. Your job is not to figure out if someone deserves something. Your job is to lift the fallen, to restore the broken and to heal the hurting. OK, let's get at it. "



Membership in the Santa Rosa Iris Society is on an annual basis from January thru December. **Renewals are due January 1st of each year.**

Single Membership - \$15.00

Dual Membership - \$25.00

Send the form attached at the end of the newsletter to Anna Cadd.



May 15-17, 2026 at the Silver Legacy Hotel and Casino, Reno NV

This venue is entirely smoke-free except in the casino. Amenities include a complimentary self-parking garage, free airport shuttle, valet parking, gym, pool, spa, and five restaurants. Indoor walkways to the El Dorado and Circus Circus provide additional dining options.

Friday Events

- Iris Show: Entries are accepted from 3:30 to 5:00 p.m. in the Silver Baron Rooms.
- Attendees are invited to enjoy dinner on their own.
- The General Business Meeting will be held in the Silver Baron Ballroom at 7:00PM.

Saturday Events

- Two guest garden tours, including a box lunch for participants.
- Judges Training session.
- Buffet banquet in the Silver Baron Ballroom, featuring dinner speaker Lori Rhodes, iris hybridizer, Crafton Hills Iris Farm.
- Silent auction and live iris auction.

Sunday Events

- Judges Training
- Optional garden tours

USE THIS LINK TO REGISTER YOUR SPECIALLY PRICED ACCOMMODATIONS ONLINE

BEFORE APRIL 15, 2026: <https://book.passkey.com/go/SRAIS6>

2026 SPRING REGIONAL MEETING

AIS REGION 14

REGISTRATION FORM

May 15-17, 2026 at the Silver Legacy Hotel and Casino, Reno NV

DEDICATED LINK FOR ONLINE ROOM RESERVATIONS FOR THIS EVENT

<https://book.passkey.com/go/SRAIS6>

(Cutoff date for special pricing on room reservations and reduced resort fee is April 15, 2026)

Registration includes Friday Iris show, entries accepted 3:30 pm – 5:00 pm, general business meeting.

Saturday includes a judges training, a box lunch, self-guided tour of 2 guest gardens, buffet banquet dinner followed by our guest speaker Hybridizer Lori Rhodes, silent auction, and live iris auction.

Sunday: judges training, optional local garden tours and sight seeing

Registrant 1 First name: _____ Last name: _____

Registrant 2 First name: _____ Last name: _____

Address _____ City _____ ST _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email (for confirmation) _____ Local Iris Society _____

Will you attend Judges Training? Box Lunch: _____ Vegetarian choice _____ GF choice _____

Registration fee if postmarked before April 15, 2026: \$125 Number of person/s _____ Total \$ _____

Registration fee If postmarked after April 15, 2026: \$140 Number of person/s _____ Total \$ _____

Registrations postmarked after May 1, 2026 will be accepted at the discretion of the Registrar.

Please make check payable to High Desert Iris Society (HDIS). Mail the check and your registration form to: HDIS c/o Michele Swarts, 300 Shady Valley Road, Sparks NV 89441

Minutes: Meeting - December 9: noon Diana Ford

Members attending included: Dorothy Quong, Beverly Fleming, Sophia Brantley, Paul Barthlome, Jeff Davis, Anna Cadd, Anna Marie Hermansen, Diana Ford, Linnea Polo, Kitty Loberg and Steve Albert.



Discussion about email hacking from AIS. Reminders to not click on anything in an email if you don't know why it was sent. If in doubt check the email of the sender against the member list or call to see if they sent you something.

The minutes from last month were approved. Kitty gave the Treasurers report and it was approved. All new members who paid in September through November had their membership extended through 2026.

There was a discussion about the display garden and there is a need to buy a few new beardless Iris. Jeff is going to chair a committee to select a few new beardless Iris. Ellen and Linnea will work on the door prize Iris and will form a committee to distribute them during the annual dig. Anna Marie will continue to do the newsletter with Kathy as co-editor. There are a few positions that still need to be filled. We need two directors to replace directors who took other positions or timed out. Also we need a show chair for the iris show this spring (2026).

We worked on the proposed budget for 2026, voted to add \$500 for labor to display garden budget. \$75 and mileage for judges, increased that amount and approved budget to present at February general meeting. Discussed publicity for show and in addition to other sources we'll try to get other clubs to add the dates to their newsletters.

We will dig and replant the beardless bed in January, and see about morning glory. We will see about setting up a judge's training in our schedule.

For programs: February 9, Anna will give a class on different types and growing requirements. April 13 Jeff will give a class on staging Iris for a show. May 9 and 10 is our Iris show and potted Iris public sale. May 11 and 12 touring members gardens. For the Spring Iris Show we will need a theme, program and some judges. Who will be going to the regional and National shows? August 10 will be the Potluck/picnic/auction. September 5 for the public rhizome sale.

Jeff and Anna will go to the center's maintenance meetings and they needed someone as backup. Paul agreed to serve as backup.

Thank you to the following people for contributions to the newsletter ...
Ellen Johnson, Juanita Breckwoldt, Alleah Haley, Betty Ford and Anna Cadd

FEBRUARY Newsletter Deadline, January 20th

Please note: Articles for the newsletter which are submitted after the 20th of the month may be placed at the end of the newsletter, due to formatting that has already been done.

Meetings & Membership

Santa Rosa Iris Society meets the second Monday of each month February through October at 12:00 p.m. at the Luther Burbank Art and Garden Center, 2050 Yulupa Avenue, Santa Rosa, California. In November instead of having a regular meeting, we have our annual holiday potluck dinner and dress up as an iris name costume party.

Membership dues are \$15.00 for single/\$25 for dual. Send payment to: Santa Rosa Iris Society, Anna Cadd, 329 North Street, Healdsburg, CA 95448. Membership offers regular meetings, iris door prizes, special programs, use of our library, a monthly newsletter, an annual iris show and rhizome sale, and fellowship with other iris lovers. For more information call Anna Cadd at 707-433-8633.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL IN THE SANTA ROSA IRIS SOCIETY

Membership in the Santa Rosa Iris Society is on an annual basis from January thru December.

Renewals are due January 1st of each year. The current dues are:

Single Membership - \$15.00 and Dual Membership - \$25.00

Please make your check payable to the **Santa Rosa Iris Society** and mail it with this form to:

Anna Cadd
329 North Street
Healdsburg, CA 95448

NAME(S)

ADDRESS

CITY/STATE/ZIP CODE

_____ TELEPHONE (H)

_____ (C) _____ e-MAIL

ADDRESS _____

BIRTHDAY (excluding year)

AIS MEMBER: YES _____ NO _____

ENCLOSED IS \$ _____ for () SINGLE () DUAL