



# *Fleur de Lis*

## *Clara B. Rees Iris Society*

**Mar 2026**

**Vol. 68 Issue 7**

**Next Meeting**

**Mar 6, 2026**

**West Valley Library**

**1243 San Tomas Aquino Rd.**

**San Jose, CA 95117**

**Doors open 7:00 PM**

**Meeting 7:30 PM.**

**Dues**

**Sep 1, 2025-**

**Aug 31, 2026**

**Adults - \$15.00**

**Carol Dahout**

**CBRIS President**

**Contact Information**

**caroldahout@yahoo.com**

**CBRIS**

**www.cbris.org**

**Region 14**

**aisregion14.org**

**American Iris Society**

**www.irises.org**

## **March Program**

Please join us at the West Valley Branch Library on Friday, March 6 at 7:30 pm. We will be honored to have Barbara Gordon, a renowned flower judge, share her expertise in floral arranging featuring the iris flower. Barbara was a member of the Westbay Iris Society for 30 years before Westbay disbanded and continues her membership in the American Iris Society. Barbara is a National Garden Club judge, an American Rose Society judge, and an American Camellia Society judge. She often donates her time and talent to assembling displays for these annual shows. Barbara enjoys growing all varieties of plants, using them for food and beauty. Barbara is a retired Sogetsu Ikebana teacher and a retired Kindergarten teacher. Barbara will share her knowledge so that you, too, can put together a beautiful floral display.

## **Novelty Iris Society**

Save the date for the Novelty Iris Society annual meeting!

The Novelty Iris Society (NIS) is a section of the AIS that was formed by a group of iris enthusiasts who love the unusual forms and color combinations of space-age, flat and broken color irises, as well as irises with variegated foliage. The meeting will be held via Zoom on Saturday, March 21, at 10:00 a.m. Pacific time. After a brief business meeting, there will be a program by NIS northwest director Tammie Clark: "Chasing the Novelty Iris Rainbow"! Please join us, you don't have to be a NIS member to attend. To sign up for the meeting, please go to this link:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/Ffk-BKlqRfia8aZ\\_5nP57Q](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/Ffk-BKlqRfia8aZ_5nP57Q)

**CBRIS March meeting to be held at West Valley  
Library, 1243 San Tomas Aquino Rd., San Jose**

## Dahout Digs

March 2026

### Iris Splendor

Our annual show is coming up, and I will have schedules for you to study and flyers to hand out. I may also have a sign-up sheet or two, who knows! I'm excited that our presenter this month is Barbara Gordon, a well-known local floral artist and judge, who will demonstrate the elements of design and show you how you can enter our Artistic Division successfully. She will also be donating five arrangements to our door prize drawing. This will be a very fun evening and not to be missed!

Another exciting opportunity for us was presented to me just today (Tuesday). On March 21<sup>st</sup>, Curious Flora (formerly Annie's Annuals) in Richmond is having a Plant Nerd Day, and we have been invited to be one of the featured horticultural societies. This is to celebrate the educational role of horticultural societies, and will be from 11:00 AM – 3:00 PM, with setup at 10:00 AM. All members will be given a 20% discount on all plant purchases. We can demo how to plant, fertilize and divide iris. We can also promote our upcoming pot sale and show and perhaps gain some new members in the process!

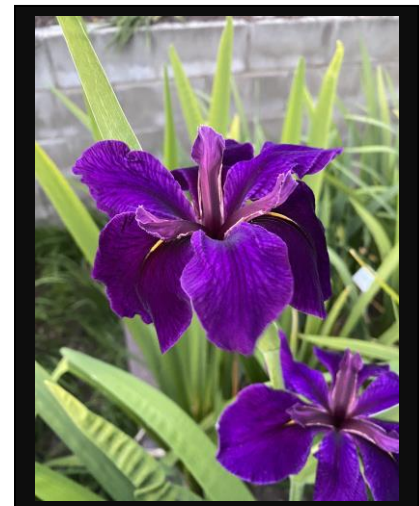
Our meeting this Friday, March 6<sup>th</sup>, will be at the West Valley Library on San Tomas Aquino Rd. in San Jose. I hope to see you all there!

– Carol Dahout, CBRIS President

A very nice clump of Iris confusa growing at Jane Jordan's home.



Believe it or not 'Queen Of Soul', a Louisiana iris blooming in Carl Boro's garden on March 3<sup>rd</sup>.



## Clara B Rees Financial Statement February 2026

<b>Beginning balance, February 1, 2026</b>	<b>\$21,684.59</b>
Expenses: Door Prize Iris	1,631.20
Library rental, two months	80.00
AIS affiliation fee	30.00
Speaker for meeting, donation	50.00
Summer picnic gazebo fee	150.00
Memorial donation to AIS	50.00
Show schedules and flyers	87.35
<b>Ending balance, February 28, 2026</b>	<b>\$19,606.04</b>



Gina Johnson  
Rosemary Chivers  
Jennifer Vanden Beukel  
Jeff Bennett



### Culture

Blooms have begun

- Hopefully, you have applied a balanced fertilizer
- Clean weeds and dead leaves.
- Watch for leafspot
- Water, if the rains have stopped
- Check for snails and earwigs
- Check for aphids and white flies, and spray if they are seen.
- Give Japanese and Louisiana iris an application of an acid food such as a camellia-type fertilizer.

### Refreshments



Beth Brandt  
Carol Dahout  
Linda Lomperis  
Scott Smith

Please do not bring cut-up citrus fruit, as one of our members has a severe citrus allergy.

**Reminder:**  
Bring a mug and utensils  
We provide paper plates and napkins



## Minutes for the CBRIS Meeting on February 6, 2026

**Welcome:** President Carol Dahout called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm, welcoming all attendees and acknowledging the February birthdays of the following CBRISians: Carl Boro, Steve Chen, Gail Christen, Andrea Clague, Riley Probst, Jody Sorenson and Charmaine Turbow.

No guests or new members were in attendance.

Carol acknowledged the CBRIS Secretary Linda Lomperis for doing a good job of detailing everything in the Minutes. (Thank you, Carol. My work as Secretary benefits a great deal from your work and that of my fellow club members, officers and board members.)

**Treasury Report:** Carol reports our current Treasury balance to be \$21,684.59.

**2026 CBRIS Garden Tours:** Garden Tour Coordinator Naomi Nakata asked CBRISians who want their garden to be toured this spring to kindly email her now to secure their place on the tour.

**The CBRIS Potted Iris Sale will take place at the Saratoga Farmer's Market on Saturday, April 4, 2026.** Carol reminds people who are growing the potted iris for this sale to water and fertilize them, also adding soil to them as needed.

**Program:** Guest speaker Patrick Stadille, an ambassador of the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation (i.e, preservation of the 'little things that run the world' such as insects, beetles, moths and butterflies), delivered an educational speech on how one can attract pollinators to one's garden.

Besides emphasizing the overall importance of pollinators to the sustenance of all sorts of plant life, Stadille drew special attention to the work of bees, whom he called the “kings of pollination” because they move a lot of pollen, while also acknowledging the decline in pollinator populations overall due to habitat loss, pesticides and climate change.

Stadille’s talk concluded with salient advice on how to use one's gardening space to promote the lives of pollinators: grow pollinator-friendly plants, especially native plants; don't use pesticides; provide nest sites—such as leaves and bare ground—for pollinators to over-winter and sustain themselves; and plant many different types of native plants so as to attract all sorts of pollinators in all seasons.

**Refreshment Gratitude:** Carol thanked Winnie Wang, Elizabeth Brandt and Jennifer VandenBeukel for providing refreshments for tonight's meeting.

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**Pots for the Taking:** Carolyn and Wayne Craft brought an array of pots for CBRISians to take home with them.

**Upcoming Events of Interest to CBRISians:**

- Region 14's Spring Regional Meeting takes place in Reno, Nevada on May 15 – 17.
- The 2026 American Iris Society (AIS) National Convention takes place in New Jersey and New York city (Regions 2 and 3) on May 18- 23.
- The 2026 CBRIS Iris Show, entitled "Iris Splendor," is on Saturday April 19<sup>th</sup> at the Joan Pisani Center in Saratoga.
- The 2026 Mount Diablo Iris Society's Iris Show will take place at the Alden Lane Nursery in Livermore on April 25 and 26.
- The 2026 Monterey Bay Iris Society's Iris Show will take place at the London Nelson Community Center in Santa Cruz on April 25 and 26.
- The 2026 Sacramento Iris Society's Iris Show is in Sacramento on April 18.
- The 2026 Santa Rosa Iris Society's Iris Show is on May 9.
- The Fresno Iris Society's Iris Show is on April 12
- The Yosemite Iris Society will hold a Judges' Training Session at Yosemite on February 14.
- The International Orchid Society Expo takes place in San Francisco on February 27-29 in the County Fair Building.
- On the third Saturday of every month, the Master Gardeners of Santa Clara County hold a sale of native plants and succulents.



**Door Prize Irises** were awarded via the Wheel of Fortune app.

**Meeting Adjourned** around 9:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Lomperis, CBRIS Secretary



## CBRIS February Meeting



## Dates to Remember

CBRIS Meeting	Mar 6, 2026	Barbra Gordan – Artistic Designs with Iris
Plant Nerd Day	Mar 21, 2026	Curious Flora, 11:00 AM – 3:00 PM
Zoom Judges Training	Mar 27, 2026	Conducting and Judging Virtual Iris Shows – presented by Jean Richter
CBRIS Meeting	Apr 3, 2026	Jane Jordan – Staging Your Iris for the Show
Potted Iris Sale	Apr 4, 2026	Saratoga Farmers Market – West Valley College
CBRIS Spring Show	Apr 19, 2026	Joan Pisani Community Center, Saratoga
CBRIS Meeting	May 1, 2026	Jeff Bennett – Arilbreds by the Bay
2026 Spring Regional	May 15-16, 2026	Reno, Nevada; hosted by High Desert Iris Society
2026 AIS National Convention	May 18-23, 2026	New Jersey and New York; 4 gardens: Brooklyn Botanical Gardens, Presby Memorial Iris Gardens, Rutgers Gardens, and Gary Slagle’s Garden
CBRIS Meeting	June 4, 2026	Show Awards
CBRIS Picnic	Jul 19, 2026	Ortega Park, Sunnyvale, CA
2026 Fall Regional	TBA	Hosted by Shasta and Leo T. Clark Iris Societies
2027 Spring 14 Regional	May 7-9, 2027	Hosted by MBIS, Santa Cruz area gardens - Diane Sampson in Watsonville and Jo Chisholm in Los Gatos

## AIS Region 14 Scholarship

AIS Region 14 budgets \$1,000 each year for a scholarship to be awarded to a student who is studying Floriculture or Horticulture, or a closely related subject. The award shall be given to a student demonstrating interest in iris activities with Region 14 or pursuing a career in horticulture, floriculture, landscaping, nursery production, or a related field. Students may be seniors in high school or in a college or university at this time. Preference will be given to students who are the family members of Region 14 members. Their home address must be within the area of Northern California, Nevada, or Hawaii, which is Region 14. The deadline for turning in an application is April 30, 2026.

– <https://aisregion14.org/>



## Sydney B. Mitchell Iris Society Judges Training

The Sydney B. Mitchell Iris Society is proud to sponsor the first-ever judges' training on conducting and judging virtual iris shows. This training will be held online via Zoom at 5:00 p.m. Pacific time on Friday, March 27. This one-hour training will be given by AIS master judge and virtual show chair, Jean Richter. To register for the training, go to this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/izsGYY-bRu-MfMzrVUL25A>. After registration, you will be given the Zoom link to join and access to various versions of the test.

SBMIS's own virtual show will open for entries on March 1. Everyone is welcome to enter. Please see our website, [bayareairis.org](http://bayareairis.org), for details.

### 2026 AIS Foundation Youth Essay Contest "250th Anniversary of The United States: Reflection and Joy"

Debbie Strauss, Chair

**No matter how long the winter, spring is sure to follow!**

*"After the cold and dark days of winter, the spring season brings new life and fresh hope to the world.  
It will come soon."*

Hey all you youth out there! Did you know that **any** youth can write for this contest, not just AIS youth? This is sponsored by the American Iris Society Foundation. Share this article or give them my email for information.

The 250th Anniversary of the United States is a landmark in human history—a time to honor the past, celebrate the present, and inspire the future as the nation gathers in collective reflection and joy. Below is the theme for the 2026 Ackerman Youth Essay Contest. Winners will receive a cash reward and a certificate for a 2026 iris! The deadline for sending the essays will be Thursday, **April 30, 2026**. Make your essay a creative writing piece, and be sure you have fun imagining how you can showcase irises to honor your country's anniversary.

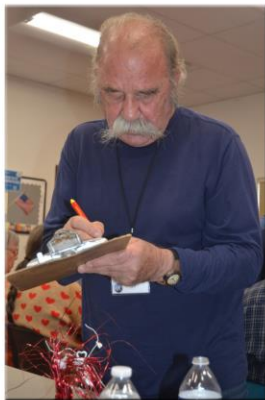
Read the theme below and let your imagination flow. Before you turn it in, get your mom, dad, aunt, teacher, or other trusted adult to read it over after you write your first draft. Get them to help you think about how to add to it, make it have more details, and check your grammar and spelling.

**You have been invited by your state governor to plant an iris bed at your local library for your state's celebration of our National 250th Anniversary. These gardens will be highlighted in a 250th National Anniversary book. You must decide how to make yours reflect some part of our nation. Use your imagination to pick a shape and size for your iris bed and the type or types of iris you want to plant to represent something historical in our country. Choose a color or colors of iris and explain what they mean to your interpretation of the joy of our country. Perhaps pick low-growing irises for the edges of the beds and taller ones further in. You might want to highlight irises bred by a hybridizer who lives in your area.**

See the [complete rules and details](#), then send your finished essay (500 words or less) to: Debbie Strauss, at [debbie@loveirises.com](mailto:debbie@loveirises.com) or mail it to her at 2213 Hereford Blvd, Midland TX 79707 by the deadline, **April 30, 2026**.

The above two articles may be found on The American Iris Society News & Notes, February 20, 2026.

# Judges Training Coarsegold, CA - Feb. 18,2026



**Five CBRIS members attended the judges training given by Lynda Miller on Feb.18. It was an excellent training on medians.**

**-Photos by Lisa Chen and Mikey Lango**



# CBRIS Door Prizes Iris March 2026

**Akela Flats** (Howie Dash '25) **AB (OGB-)** 27" M S. dark violet, with purple veining; F. dark violet, with purple veining; B. dark brown base, blue tips.

**Arms Of Love** (Thomas Johnson '25) **SDB** 13" E-M S. orange with pink center; F. pink, with deeper pink veins, deeper amethyst pink wash, touched orange at hafts; B. tangerine.

**Blackberry Pie** (Diana Ford '25) B 36" M S. dark purple; F. ruffled darker purple; B. very dark old gold.

**Bride's Blush** (Michael Sutton '04) TB 37" L & **Re** S. white, midrib flushed champagne pink; F. pale cream, shoulders apricot orange; B. pale yellow, hairs tipped tangerine, with a slight fuzzy white horn; ruffled, laced. **HM'06**.

**Challenge Accepted** (Thomas Johnson '25) TB 35" EM S. light lavender-blue, with large orange center wash; F. deep rich burnt red-orange; B. burnt orange.

**Crimson Colossus** (Lloyd Austin **1963**) TB 36" M S. light red; F. deep crimson; B. orange.

**Eldorado** (Vilmorin **1910**) TB M S. lavender; F. lavender with yellow haft markings; B. yellow orange.

**Eye Of Darkness** (Richard Tasco '25) **AB (OGB)** 28" EML S. white; F. yellow with a half-dollar-sized burgundy-black signal; B. yellow.

**Golden Rose** (Diana Ford '25) TB 36" M S. gold, pale rose veins; F. burgundy rose, gold with rose veins around beard, B. orange, darker in throat.

**Harvest Glow** (Mike Sutton '25) TB 46" L S. strong orange; F. strong red; B. orange.

**Heroic** (Mike Sutton '25) **IB** 24" EM Self - dark strong purple, lighter at edge; B. deep strong purple-black tips.

**Keep An Eye Out** (Thomas Johnson '25) **AB (OGB-)** 26" EM S. lavender blue; F. lavender blue, with large deep black cherry signal; B. white base, orange tips.

**Maroon Bells Glow** (Robert Van Liere '25) TB 39" EML S. white, with 1/2 inch yellow veining along edge; F. maroon, with white area around beard, broken up by red veining; B. orange.

**Mom's Garden** (Diane Ford '25) TB 35" M-L S. medium pink; F. mauve pink, lighter at edge; B. white base to pale pink

**On The Horizon** (Thomas Johnson '25) **SDB** 13" EM S. white, with green midrib; F. green-yellow hafts and dart sit above an indigo blue wash, with a white band; B. orange.

**Procrastination** (Keith Keppel '25) TB 37" VL S. near amber white, flushed light mauve blue; F. inner haft flushed sunflower; heavily ruffled, laced; B. primrose to golden yellow at throat.

**Runner Girl** (Mike Sutton '25) TB 37" M S. pale purple-pink, deeper purple-pink flush up midrib; F. pale purple-pink blending to light purple, pale purple-pink edge, strong purple shoulders; ruffled; B. orange.

**Sespe** (Marion R. Walker **1949**) TB 38" E-M S. greenish yellow; F. darker greenish yellow; B. yellow with white tips.

**Stare Into My Eyes** (Paul Black. '25) **AB (OGB-)** 23" L-VL S. white with light yellow center; F. big dark Tyrian purple spot irregularly blended into wide light amethyst band; B. mid marigold.

**Suspicious Minds** (Thomas Johnson '24) TB 38" E S. cream ground, violet flush in center that fades into lemon veins; F. rich and plush deep mahogany red-violet, wide lavender band; B. burgundy base, tangerine tips.

**Tropical Charm** (Howie Dash '25) TB, 35" E-M S. white, pale red brown flush on midrib, gold rim; F. red brown, faint beige rim; B. red-orange.

**Yvonne B. Burke** (Ben Hager **1977**) 38" M. Deep purple self; B. deep purple. **HM 1978**.





Akela Flats AB



Arms Of Love SDB



Blackberry Pie



Bride's Blush RE



Challenge Accepted



Crimson Colossal



Eldorado



Eye Of Darkness AB



Golden Rose



Harvest Glow



Heroic IB



Keep An Eye Out AB



Maroon Bells Glow



Mom's Garden



On The Horizon SDB



Procrastination



Runner Girl



Sespe



Stare Into My Eyes AB



Suspicious Minds



Tropical Charm



Yvonne B Burke





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

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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

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DEDICATED LINK FOR ONLINE ROOM RESERVATIONS FOR THIS EVENT

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

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

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Registration includes Friday Iris Show, entries accepted 3:30 pm-5:00 pm, and the general business meeting.

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

Sunday: judges training, optional garden tours, and sightseeing

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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 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

Please make check payable to High Isis Society (HDIS). Mail the check and your registration form

To: HBIS c/o Michele Swarts, 300 Shady Valley Road, Sparks NV 89441