



# Sydney B. Mitchell Iris Society

Friday, May 23rd  
is the date of our next meeting.  
Jean Richter will present the  
Show Awards, and will give a  
slide show on the  
2008 AIS Convention.

Doors open 7:30 pm. Meeting 8:00 pm. Program after brief business  
Meetings are free and open to the public, all are eligible to win doorprizes!  
Lakeside Park Garden Center ~ 666 Bellevue Avenue, Oakland  
*(see page 7 for directions)*

**PRESENTATION:** Jean Richter will present the Show Awards, and will give a slide show on the 2008 Convention in Austin, TX. (Jean, Bonnie & Marjorie were on the same plane!).

SHOW TROPHIES 2008 SYDNEY B.  
MITCHELL IRIS SOCIETY

**Best Specimen of Show:**  
Close Eye, Ryan Grisso

**Best Seedling of Show:** 2865-23, Ryan Grisso

**Best Tall Bearded:**  
Drama Queen, Meredith Endsley

**Best Bearded Other Than Tall:**  
Many Mahalos, Alan Robbins

**Best Historic:**  
Pretty Pansy (1946), Bob & Janet Canning

**Best Beardless:**  
Close Eye, Ryan Grisso

**Best Pacific Coast Iris:**  
Close Eye, Ryan Grisso

**Best Spuria:**  
Bandelion Smile, Ray Vickers-Traft

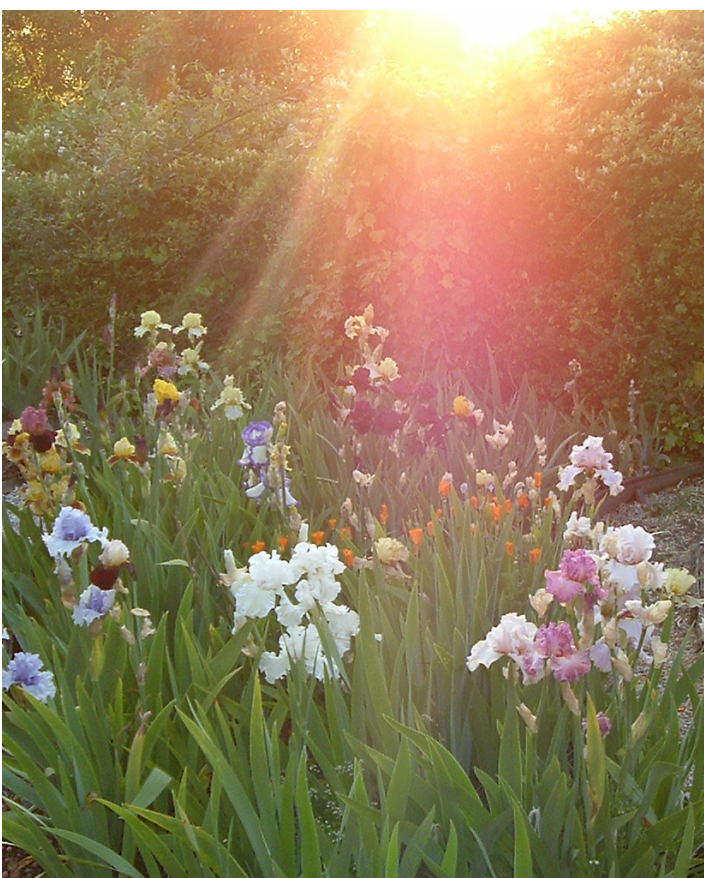
**Silver Medal:** Ryan Grisso  
**Bronze Medal:** Tim & Kat Boswell

THANKS to stalwart workers Alan Robbins, who ran the show (what's his title for that?) (perhaps Grand Poohbah?), Ryan Grisso, Ray Vickers-Traft, Terry Strathman, Marjorie Murray, Gesine Lohr, and all others who helped!

And THANKS to the above-&-beyond judges! We couldn't have done it without your coming over after judging another show!



Above, Chuck Dekker with Gesine Lohr at a recent visit to Chuck's. He had some pretty good bloom, see below, and sent a lot of iris in pots along for SBM's table at the Old Rose Festival. Chuck is in hospice at home. We agreed that we both preferred that he live forever, or at least another 88 years.



## Volunteer needed to represent Sydney B on the Board of the OEBGC ~

Chuck Dekker is stepping down as our representative for SBMIS on the Board of the Oakland East Bay Garden Center. We need a volunteer, preferably someone residing in Oakland. OEBGC meets once a month for 1 hour (9-10 am) on the 3rd Monday. It's a well-run organization which is gradually remaking and modernizing the formal gardens (fenced area) at Lake Merrit. Anyone interested, please call Chuck Dekker for details of current activities and responsibilities. (510) 525-6536

## Ed Wilkinson material seeking a home

Alice Dekker is still disposing of garden items from Ed Wilkinson's estate. There is a book of 2x2 slides, about 250 of them, which are more related to his landscape gardening interests than to his iris interests. Would you or someone you know wish to scan or have these? If no response, they will be discarded at the end of May 2008. Please let Alice know, phone (510) 525-6536

## DOORPRIZE IRIS

'Secret Recipe' (Ghio 2007) Illuminata w mulberry S lightening to golden apricot edges. Falls are black mulberry w a defined apricot-cream band and apricot shoulders. Tangerine B.

'Picture Book' (Ghio 2007) F mid-pink deepening at the edges and towards the heart of the blooms. Mid-pink S top the bloom like the steeple of a cathedral! Petal edges somewhat serrated and dancing with accordian ruffles. Tangerine B.

'One Way Ticket' (Lauer 2007) S white and amethyst-violet F with white lines radiating from white shoulders. B are Indian red tip't white. Ruffled and pronounced sweet fragrance.

'Dark Forces' (Tasco 2007) IB Dark red-violet S, velvety-black F, red-orange B barely tip't violet. Lightly ruffled with a sweet fragrance.

Our show was great! though smaller than sometimes...



Morris Simpson asks, who is that blue? At right, Bob Canning with trophy for Best Historic, 'Pretty Pansy'.



# There were lots of good blooms, despite early timing



Three judges judging -- John Pesek, Alleah Middling, and Ron Wolberg. Below, John and Ron.



Below, Ray Vickers-Traft shows points to new iris fan



Below, Bob Canning smiling mysteriously



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Farewell ~ VIRGINIA A. MESSICK

On April 18, 2008 our good friend Virginia Messick passed away at home following a brief illness.

Virginia was a long time iris lover, hybridizer and introduced over 20 iris with most being in the last 25 years. She was a Charter member of Mt. Diablo Iris Society and one of the first Directors.

Virginia was an AIS Member for over 50 years with 46 year record of continuous National Convention attendance.

You could always find Virginia out in her garden early in the morning during bloom season and were always welcome to come and talk with her and watch her making crosses.

We will deeply miss her and her friendly advice and her beautiful acre of iris in bloom.

[From Mt. Diablo Iris Society May 2008]

Below -- Superstition Iris Gardens, May 2008



Daughter Laurie, Virginia, Dave Silverberg at 2007 AIS Convention bus tour



## SCHEDULE OF SBM MEETINGS and other events for 2008

See Sydney B. Mitchell's own website! at [www.bayareairis.org](http://www.bayareairis.org) (looking good, Terry!)  
[www.aisregion14.org/reg14calendar.html](http://www.aisregion14.org/reg14calendar.html)

<b>Friday May 23</b> <b>SBM Presentation of Show Awards, &amp; slide program</b>	7:30 p.m	<i>Presentation of Show Awards.</i> Jean Richter – <b>Slides of 2008 AIS Convention</b>
<b>Friday June 27</b>	TBA!	<b>TBA - possibly a field trip!</b>
<b>Friday July 25</b> SBM Bearded Iris RHIZOME SALE	Sale 7:30 - 8:30 pm Auction 8:30-10 pm	SBM Bearded Iris Sale (7:30-8:30) and Auction (8:30-10:00)
<b>Saturday July 26</b> <b>Sidewalk Iris Sale</b>	9 am – 2 pm	Sidewalk Iris Sale in front of Downtown Oakland YMCA, 2350 Broadway, Oakland
AUGUST 22nd Alan Robbins slideshow, our iris history!	7:30 pm	Alan Robbins slideshow, including fascinating material from Adele and Lewis Lawyers' iris estates.
September - a Sunday in late September -- BBQ!	5 pm -- 8 pm	BBQ! details later!
October 17 Friday October 18 Saturday Fall Regional!	TBA	Fall Regional cohosted with Mt. Diablo Iris Society
Friday October 24th SBM Beardless Iris Auction & Sale!	Sale 7:30 - 8:30 pm Auction 8:30-10 pm	SBM Beardless Iris Auction & Sale!
January 2009 Region 14 Budget Meeting		We host the Region 14 Budget Meeting & Potluck

**American Iris Society (AIS) Dues can be mailed to Tom Gormley,**  
 AIS Membership Secretary  
 10606 Timber Ridge Street  
 Dubuque, IA 52001-8268  
 Telephone and Fax - 563-513-0504  
 E-mail: aismemsec@earthlink.net  
 \$25.00 single, \$30.00 dual.  
 See www.irises.org/

Please pay your 2008 **SBM Membership Dues** ~ please give to Bonnie Petheram, or send checks made out to Sydney B. Mitchell Iris Society to Bonnie at 1226 High Street, Alameda, CA 94501. \$10 household.

**Historic Iris Preservation Society (HIPS)** dues can be mailed to HIPS Membership: Judy Eckhoff, 7911 South Yoder Road, Haven, KS 67543  
 E-mail: judye@msinter.net  
 \$10.00 single annual, \$12.00 dual annual.  
 www.hips-roots.com

Directions to the Garden Center:

666 Bellevue Avenue, Oakland

From the north or west; take Highway 580 or 24 to 980; take the West 27th Street/Grand Avenue exit, turn left on 27th Street, go east to Grand Avenue, watch for Lake Merritt on the right, take a left on to Grand Ave., then a right at the stoplight into the park. Proceed on Bellevue to the Garden Center. From the south or east; take the Lakeside (Lake Merritt) or Grand Ave. exit in Oakland; follow around the lake on the north and west side to Grand Ave. and Bellevue, turn left into the park.

Proceed to the Garden Center, park on either side of the road. We hope you can come -- everyone is welcome!

AC Transit Bus -- AC Transit but #12 runs on Grand near the entrance to the park

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List of SBM Officers:

President	Jean Richter	(510) 864-7962	richter@eecs.berkeley.edu
Vice-President	Gesine Lohr	(510) 864-7962	Gesine.Lohr@gmail.com
Secretary	Terry Strathman	(510) 642-3795	strath@berkeley.edu
Treasurer	Bonnie Petheram	(510) 864-7962	bpetheram@highlandtechnology.com
Directors-At-Large	Marjorie Murray	(510) 525-3397	
	Alan Robbins	(925) 939-1979	Grand Poohbah
Newsletter	Gesine Lohr	(510) 864-7962	Gesine.Lohr@gmail.com
Door Prize Chair	Marjorie Murray	(510) 525-3397	
Hospitality	~ t.b.a. ~ WE NEED A VOLUNTEER! ~		
Shows and Exhibits	Jean Richter	(510) 864-7962	richter@eecs.berkeley.edu
Program Chair	Gesine Lohr	(510) 864-7962	Gesine.Lohr@gmail.com
Library Chairpersons	Alice Dekker	(510) 525-6536	
Membership	t.b.a.		
Publicity & website	Terry Strathman	(510) 642-3795	strath@berkeley.edu
Historian/scrapbooker	Kat Boswell		
Immediate Past Pres.	Ray Vickers-Traft	(510) 839-9647	wndwsillorchids@aol.com
Past President Emeritus	Chuck Dekker	(510) 525-6536	



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## SBMIS joins the Information Age!

Calling all members with email! Would you like to join the SBMIS email list? Send your email address to [richter@eecs.berkeley.edu](mailto:richter@eecs.berkeley.edu), and we'll add you to our club email list.

## Calling all phone numbers!

In an effort to stay better connected, we'd like to go back to including phone numbers on the club roster. While we have phone numbers for some longtime members, we don't have ones for members who have joined within the past 6-7 years (or who have moved recently). Please call (510) 864-7962 or email [richter@eecs.berkeley.edu](mailto:richter@eecs.berkeley.edu) with your phone number to help us update our roster!



Global warming is here – you know what to do

SBMIS Newsletter -- Gesine Lohr

1226 High Street

Alameda, CA 94501

OPALINE (at Bluebird Haven Iris Gardens)

