



Sydney B. Mitchell



Here We Go Again!
Stay At Home!
Social Distancing!
**No January
Meeting**

(above): *Iris germanica*,
blooming now (quite early!)



Sadly the pandemic is still making things difficult for us. As a result of the recent surge in infections, we will not have a January potluck or judges' training this year. Meetings will continue to be held over Zoom for at least the next few months. Stay home when you can, wear your N95 mask when you can't, and hopefully things will improve soon.

More sad news: longtime SBMIS member and AIS stalwart John Jones passed away on January 19. He held positions with AIS for over 20 years, and helped our club out judging shows and giving judges' trainings. Gone much too soon and he will be sorely missed. Our heartfelt condolences and best wishes go out to his wife Joanne.

Take care everyone and stay safe. Jean



President's message:

Unfortunately the pandemic is not through with us yet. Because of this we will be holding virtual meetings until further notice. I really appreciate those of you who have attended our Zoom meetings - if you haven't tried it yet, go for it! It's a great way to keep in touch while physical distancing.

I wanted to let you know that I will be stepping down as president as of the end of 2022. I will be appointing a nominating committee in the next few months to choose our slate of new officers. Please consider stepping up to serve as president, vice president (and program chair), secretary, treasurer, board member at large, or newsletter editor.

Let's hope better times and beautiful blooms come our way soon! Jean

(right) **Rise Like a Phoenix** (Black 2017)

(below) **Iris tectorum** (bloomed in January!)



Sydney B. Mitchell 2021 calendar:

Upcoming meetings (online until further notice):

February 25

March 25

April - show? (virtual or not?)

May 27

June 24

July 22 bearded rhizome auction/sale

August 26

September - potluck TBA

October 28 beardless iris sale

Opposites (Trio 2012)



Zoom tips:

Because we know that many of our members are not that tech-savvy, we are passing along some information on how to get going with Zoom (thanks to the Bay Area Chrysanthemum Society for the origin of these hints and tips).

Our next Zoom meeting will be February 25th -- we'll send you the Zoom link, in our February newsletter --

We will open the Zoom meeting room starting at 7:15 p.m. on the 25th, so that people can come in early and hopefully work out any access issues if needed. I am also available for help and consultation at any time, either by phone at (510) 205-4033 or email (jeanrichter@berkeley.edu). I would be happy to set up a on-on-one Zoom meeting to help test anyone's setup.

Zoom is fairly easy to use, free to download, and can be used on an iPhone or Android phone, or on a computer, iPad, tablet or laptop (most of these devices have built-in microphones and speakers). You can also join the meeting (sound only) on a regular phone by calling one of the numbers listed in the Zoom meeting instructions. If you have any problem accessing the sound on your computer, you can also call one of these numbers and join the sound by phone, while seeing the video feed on your computer.

° You will need to download the Zoom app first -- when you click the meeting link, it will automatically take you to the download site

° You can run a test to check your video & audio at <https://zoom.us/test>

° If this is your first time joining a Zoom meeting, allow Zoom permission to access your camera and microphone. It should automatically ask you if you want to do this, but if it does not ask you, and if you are on an iPhone or iPad, go to "Settings," then scroll ALL the way to the bottom and click on "Zoom." There, it will allow you to enable the microphone and camera for Zoom use.

° Just follow the meeting link and click join the meeting. You do not need to sign up for a Zoom account.

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we all try to navigate this brave new online world.

Global warming is here—you know what to do
SBMIS Newsletter -- Gesine Lohr
1226 High Street, Alameda, CA 94501
below: Iris unguicularis (winter blooming iris)



If you see **old iris stuff** which is about to be **tossed**, please contact me (Gesine), so we can conserve these bits of history. I assure you, anything donated will be cherished. (510) 864-7962
www.facebook.com/#!/pages/Sydney-B-Mitchell-Iris-Society/116888028332187?ref=ts



RIP Charlotte, Queen of the Universe, who brought joy to our lives for 14 years.

~ Shelter in place ~
Stay Home, CALL A FRIEND!