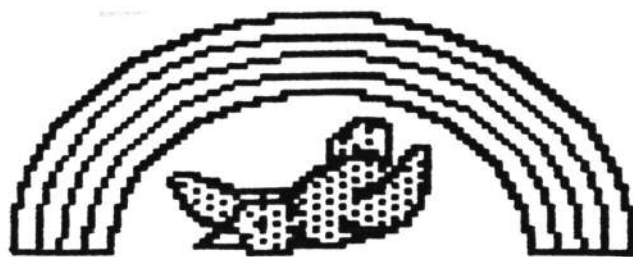


# the Texas Rainbow NEWSFLYER



volume II number 12 — December 1987  
Bulletin Editor L. Dragon

## IRIS SOCIETY of AUSTIN OFFICERS:

|                 |                  |
|-----------------|------------------|
| President       | Harvey Wilson    |
| 1st. Vice-Pres. | Lorraine Dragon  |
| Secretary       | David Kraemer    |
| Treasurer       | Pauline Guerrero |

## NEW BRAUNFELS IRIS SOCIETY OFFICERS:

|                |                  |
|----------------|------------------|
| President      | Kenneth Triesch  |
| 1st Vice-Pres. | Florence Flesher |
| 2nd Vice-Pres. | Beatrice McMahan |
| Secretary      | Audrey Cooper    |
| Treasurer      | Werner Heesche   |



### HELLO FOLKS

Well the Holiday Season is almost up on us. And another year is about to end. I hope that it

was a good year for you and yours. I would like to share with you all a Christmas Prayer written by my 93 years old Aunt. Dr. Nelle Lester of Bedford, Virginia. She is still working (limited to a few patients), is somewhat active in her church-work and loves writing poetry. She sends us a new poem each Christmas Season.

### A Christmas Prayer

We thank Thee for a dwelling place,  
For hope to face tomorrow,  
For grace sufficient for the day,  
For joy instead of sorrow,  
For work to do and folks to cheer,  
For family and friends and health,  
For Thy house in which to worship  
Is worth far more than wealth.  
And most of all for the Christ Child  
Thou didst send us from above  
To tell of life everlasting,  
Forgiveness, mercy and love.  
Now help us to live each day, dear Lord,  
As if it were the last,  
Forgiving all and singing praise  
Until our lives are past.

## REBLOOMING IRISES

I received my first newsletter from the Reblooming Iris Society last week and I must say that it was very interesting and informative . It is well worth the \$3.00 that I paid for membership . It is almost like a thin magazine , with index and several articles written by well know Iris breeders and growers . There is a question and answer column written by the staff of the newsletter . There are excerpts from the Robin ( which is a letter that circulates among a small group of Rebloom - ing Iris growers . Of course there can or may be several groups with a letter " flying " around ). There were 3 pages of comments about some of the rebloomers that the members ( from different sections of the U.S.) grow. As well as cultural methods tried by different members .

There was an article entitled "OVERHEARD in the Garden" that had an excellent tip for identifying fans with potential bloomstalks .

Lloyd Zurbrigg ( well known for hybridizing rebloomers ) was visiting the garden of a grower in N.J. and he kept pointing out fans from several feet away indicating that these iris had developing bloomstalks . And when the grower felt of the base of the fan , he did feel the swelling . When he asked LLOYD how he could spot the fans with stalks , he was told " I use a visual pointer - see the leaf just emerging from the center of the fan ? It has a 'hook' or sharply curved tip , as compared to all the others which

are straight . Lloyd explained that he believes that the leaf developes a curve or hook when it is forced to pass around the maturing bloomstalk . He emphasized that this is speculative opinion on his part , but that it has been a reliable guide for him . ( This certainly sounds worth trying . L.D. )

There is much more worthwhile reading in the Reblooming Iris Recorder ( name of their news - letter )

They send out the newsletter twice a year . They have Robins "flying" year-round - also print a checklist of reblooming Iris .

If you are interested :

| Membership dues : | Single | Family  |
|-------------------|--------|---------|
| Annual :          | \$3.00 | \$4.00  |
| Triennial :       | \$7.00 | \$10.00 |

MAIL DUES TO :

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# THE IRIS LEGEND

WRITTEN BY DORA WALL

printed in THE A.I.S. BULLETIN JAN. 1970

Religions and semi-religious organizations have found the Iris suitable for symbolic use .

The Mohammedans brought the white iris , Albicans , to Spain , and the Spaniards took it to Mexico . The Mohammedans planted Iris on the graves of their dead . Many of our early pioneers planted iris on graves as well . Perhaps it was because they were hardy , and the rhizomes survived long months of being out of the ground ; but I like to think there is another reason . One task ( according to legend ) ascribed to the Goddess Iris was the final severing of the cord between body and soul of the dying . Could this account for the use of Iris on graves ?

Katherine M . Beals in " Flower Lore and Legend " wrote ; " As a religious symbol the iris is sacred to the Virgin Mary . There was once a knight who was not learned , but who was most devout . He never could remember more than two words of the Latin prayer to the Holy Mother . These words were Ave Maria , and he repeated them over and over , night and day , until at last he died and was buried in the chapel - yard of a convent near which he had lived . After a while a strange flower grew on his grave , a Fleur-de-Lys , which bore on every blossom in golden letters the words Ave Maria . The monks , who had held him in contempt during his life , because of his ignorance , opened the grave and were

surprised to find the root of the plant resting on the lips of the holy knight , whose body lay in the grave . "

In the Bible Jesus compares the colors of the " Lilies of the Fields " ( probably native iris ) favorably to the garments worn by Solomon , a very ruler who flaunted his wealth . Does this not suggest they were favored by God .

Marguerite Dutch , in " White Shrine of Jerusalem " , presents the iris standards as representing spiritual things ( Father , Son , and Holy Ghost ; heart , mind , and soul , etc . ) and the falls to her symbolize human and earthly things ( Faith , Hope , and Charity ; father , mother , and child , etc . )

The Japanese , though not as a religious symbol , feature the iris at their June Flower Festival . Purple , yellow , white and some shades of blue are the principal colors . On June 5 , they hang bunches of wild iris under the eaves of their homes to ward off evil spirits and to guard their homes from misfortune . Public conveyances are decorated with garlands of colorful iris . The hot water in the public baths is perfumed with iris roots . In some places in Japan irises are planted on the roofs of houses . This is a custom which originated long ago when there was a famine in Japan and no one was allowed to plant any thing in the ground that could not be used for food . The Japanese use the iris to send when congratulations are in order , except for weddings , when the color purple is not used .

The iris is also mentioned in literature .

It was once believed to be a member of the Lily family , so possibly some references to the lily actually applied to some form of iris . A passage from Virgil's " Aeneid " was translated by Harry Randall to say : " So beloved iris , adorned by the sun across the heavens with a thousand varied hues , speeds down through the sky on saffron wings ". French poets have made their national flower a frequent theme of verse . Chaucer and Ben Johnson both seem to have been familiar with it. Milton numbers it with the flowers of Paradise : Iris all hues . . . " Shakes - peare often refers to the iris in his historical plays .

Finally , the iris had a practical use . Orris root , used medically , was made from it . The roots , which had many of the properties of honey , were used in the preparation of a number of different remedies .

An exquisite perfume was made from some varieties of iris .

The Japanese women used face powder made from the rhizomes of the plant .

If you have read this (THE IRIS LEGEND) with a cynical smile , take a good look at yourself . Iris fans have come to their hobby by various roads. Many of you may recall the exact experience that committed you to it . All of you bring " Burnt Offerings " in the form of money , back-breaking labor , and sweat. In the winter you spend happy hours reading the "Iris Begats", stories about great irisarians , and accounts of Important Iris ( such as DOMINION , RAMESES, SNOW FLURRY, and PROGENITOR ) which have helped in the evolution of Our Flower. Sometimes they even invade

your dreams . And which one of you has not stood in awed silence before a clump of iris in full bloom - feeling something akin to worship ( of one of God ' s gift to mankind ) ?

Let's face it !! WE ARE IRIS CULTISTS !

( I hope that y'all enjoyed this series of articles about The Iris Legend. I did when I first read it last year and thought it would be nice to pass it on . . .

My thanks to Dora Wall . I know much time was spent in researching and writing this interesting article . And I would be willing to say that she had fun doing it . . .

L.D. )

## MEETING

THERE WILL BE NO MEETINGS OF EITHER IRIS SOCIETY IN DECEMBER . BUT BE SURE TO MARK YOUR CALENDER FOR EITHER OR BOTH MEETINGS IN JANUARY 1988 .

THE IRIS SOCIETY OF AUSTIN WILL MEET JANUARY 12th.

THE NEW BRAUNFELS IRIS SOCIETY WILL MEET JANUARY 19th .

MORE ABOUT EACH MEETING IN NEXT ISSUE OF NEWSFLYER .





H A P P Y

H A P P Y

B I R T H D A Y T O

|                     |         |
|---------------------|---------|
| MARY GRACE SCHAEFER | DEC. 5  |
| BOBBIE ALLEN        | DEC. 17 |
| RAYMOND DRAGON      | DEC. 18 |

Happy Birthday to you !



### The Reason I Love You

I love things that are beautiful -  
 No matter what they be :  
 A photo of a waterfall ,  
 A picture of the sea ;  
 A painting of an iris flower .  
 I love to grow them , too .  
 My garden is a paradise  
 When iris time is due .  
 It seems , to me , when flowers grow  
 From out of one tiny seed  
 That there must be Devine Power  
 And all who see - believe .  
 I feel that I am in league with God ,  
 I help Him toward His goal  
 When I grow an Iris flower  
 Whose beauty feeds the soul .  
 I love things that make harmony  
 In art , and music too ;  
 And even in my garden paths  
 Their curves show beauty true .  
 I love things that are beautiful  
 And I include you too ,  
 And so - it is no secret now  
 The reason I love you .

G.E. REDMAN / APRIL 1965 AIS BULLETIN

### JUST A REMINDER

IRIS SOCIETY OF AUSTIN MEETS THE  
 SECOND TUESDAY OF :  
 SEPTEMBER - NOVEMBER - JANUARY -  
 MARCH - APRIL - MAY

THE NEW BRAUNFELS IRIS SOCIETY  
 MEETS THE THIRD TUESDAY OF :  
 SEPTEMBER - NOVEMBER - JANUARY -  
 MARCH - APRIL - MAY - JULY



*May You  
 and Yours  
 Have a Happy  
 Holiday Season.  
 Lorraine & Ray*

