



NEXT MEETING: JANUARY MEETING CANCELED DUE TO MECHANICAL DIFFICULTIES. Get together with fellow dahianistas and help dig out, divide or show how to store tubers. Promote dahlia community spirit.

HO HO HOLIDAYS!

What a merry crew of almost forty dahllianeers gathered for delicious festivities. Frank and Pat transformed the audio/visual stand into a terrific bar complete with wine, juices, Jenna's champagne, Gaensler wine and Maggie's cider. Deborah ignited the tables with amazing dahlia fireworks including show quality Belle of the Ball, Wyn's King Salmon, and Arena's Sunset: enough for 5 dazzling bouquets. Adding to the floral theme, Devorah's gorgeous cranberry dahlia mold satisfied the sweet/fruit/cream category. Appetizers of Gino's shrimp and cheese and En's homemade lumpia disappeared down



Frank and Pat's Pop-up Bar



Dahlia Hall Decking

happy gullets. Lola's entire turkey was devoured in a thrice. Erik and Shelly's munificent ham joined Tinnee's samosas on almost all plates. Pat's Shepard's pie and Maggie's spinach quiche utterly satisfied; more daring palates reached for Paula's spicy tamale casserole or Deborah's chicken tikka masala. In addition to wisteria starts, John brought cranberry and Fuja which accompanied Leo's chocolate chip cookies. Who brought the entire box of chocolates???? Too Decadent. Besides her healthy Waldorf salad, Cathy baked luscious fudge. MMMMM! We were tempted by Jennifer's cute baby cupcakes, Jenna's amazing brownies and Bernie's home-dried pears.



Tony, Ens, Barry, and Chad - was canary on the menu



Good time being had by all



Tenaya, Bernie, Cathy, and Jen



Ok, we've cleaned our plates - let's start the present predation!



Variety, in dahlias and food, is the spice of life

DAHIA POTLUCKS ARE SOOO GOOOD!

So many people asked for recipes, that we will include Deborah's tikka masala casseroles here. Next month we'll print Devorah's cranberry mold and Jenna's sumptuous brownies. Then Paula's tamales. Look forward to experimentations in the kitchen.

Tika Masala Sauce

- 2 Tablespoons lemon juice
- 2 teaspoons cumin
- 2 teaspoons red pepper
- 1 Tablespoon cinnamon
- 3 tablespoons minced fresh ginger
- 4 cloves mashed garlic
- 2 teaspoons coriander
- 1 teaspoon paprika
- 1 teaspoon garam masala
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 8 oz can tomato sauce
- 1 cup whipping cream

Sauté whatever meat you choose: beef, lamb or chicken; set aside

Using the same pot, add 2 tablespoons olive oil. Add:

- 2 chopped onions
- 5 stems celery, chopped finely
- 1 anise/fennel root chopped finely

When well sautéed, add meat and spices and liquid. Let marry for a few hours. I try to let this sit at least 24 hours so all the flavors mingle harmoniously.

Serve over rice or pasta.





Even amongst the festivities there is society business to discuss

Present Predation

Surgery elf, Craig, added purple tuber pens to each gift so everyone started out an ipso facto winner. Barry suggested a new twist for our rousing game of larceny: no shaking or poking. Rather, once a package was touched, it was considered claimed. The most stolen items this year included an odd metallic green wiener dog, a graceful lantern, sturdy loppers, super bloom, narcissi and a growing Fig tree start. Deborah stole the pecan turtles—twice! Halfway through our revelry, someone announced the democratic victory in Alabama and everyone jumped up and cheered! So San Francisco. Thank you to all of you who stayed to help us clean up.



Tenaya ready to go as John plots his predation strategy.

Deborah anticipating some raucous action ahead!



Barry and Marcia standing guard



Tony dissuading pilferage



Craig, Tin, and Devora enjoys the latest reveal



The game is afoot

HOW CAN YOU HELP YOUR DAHLIA SOCIETY????

Lou, Devi and Pat have already fired up their cutting program for our Tuber and Plant sale the second Saturday in April. They put their own tubers and pot roots in the greenhouse. BUT they only have a single AA, Collette and miniball presently. Cathy already donated her winning clump of Pennhill Watermelon to their efforts. What can you give them? The sooner tubers or clumps go into the greenhouse the more likely they will yield plants for our sale. Please call Devi to let her know what you might donate: 415-831-1221. They need clumps NOW through January.

DSC WEBSITE HELPFUL HINT:

When you go to our website at sfdahlias.org, do you wonder why we print the text of our e-newsletters without the pix? The answer is: So we can SEARCH on it. By clicking "pix," your newsletter will appear with great moments captured in photos integrated into the whole publication. The text-only version can be used to search for things like home green house, gopher cages, fertilizer, milk carton technique et. al. This will go through all our newsletters currently highlighted and find where these subjects have been discussed. Deborah is currently collecting photos for a new section: Cool Tools. This will talk about things like her electric divider blade, Devi's transformer kneelie and other favored gadgets we like to use. If you have a favorite go-to tool, send me a jpg pic and a wee blurb and I'll add it.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL REMINDER

It's time to renew your annual ADS and/or DSC membership. The dues remain the same:

- Dahlia Society of California only:
 - Individual Membership.....\$10.00
 - Family Membership.....\$15.00

- American Dahlia Society AND Dahlia Society of California
 - Individual Membership.....\$34.00
 - Family Membership.....\$42.00

You can get the 2018 Membership Form here or by clicking on the form to the right

The Dahlia Society of California
Membership Application
2018

Benefits

An informative monthly newsletter about the Dahlia Society of California (DSC) and its activities, growing tips, rules and regulations about competitive exhibition of blooms, etc. is distributed monthly by email. Members of the American Dahlia Society receive the quarterly Bulletin and the annual classification book.

Meetings

Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. in the County Fair Building at 19th Avenue and Lincoln Way, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco.

Annual Membership Dues

For the Dahlia Society of California only:
Individual Membership\$10.00
Family Membership\$15.00

For the Dahlia Society of California AND American Dahlia Society (includes ADS Classification Book and quarterly Bulletins):
Individual Membership\$34.00
Family Membership\$42.00

Applications are accepted for both societies, or the DSC only. Combined membership includes ADS at a discounted rate only available in conjunction with local society membership.

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ _____ NEW: _____ RENEW: _____ DATE: _____

Check _____ Cash _____

Required information, please print:

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

E-MAIL _____ TEL _____

Membership Directory: OK to publish: Name? E-mail? Phone number? _____
(please check)

Signature (required) _____

I AGREE TO ABIDE BY THE BY-LAWS OF THE DSC. By-laws are available upon request.

New memberships in the ADS and/or DSC beginning at or after the Annual Show in August will be carried over to the next year, then per the calendar year thereafter.

Make checks payable to: Dahlia Society of California
Mail completed form and check to: Devi Joseph, DSC Membership
862-39th Ave.
San Francisco, CA 94121

COLORFUL DREAMS DURING THE MUD MONTHS

Oh the weather outside is frightful, but thoughts of spring are so delightful.

Here are a few pages drool worthy dahlias to get you though the rainy days.



AC Papa



AC Rows End



Bloomquist Pumpkin



Clearview Jonas



Creekside Doc



Hollyhill Confetti



Creme de Cassis



Ellie Taylor



Sandia Blackheart



Formby Art



Star's Favorite



Flamethrower

JUMP START JANUARY

Do you want dahlia blooms earlier than last year's? Try making some late season cuttings from sprouts coming off the clumps you left in the ground. Give them prolonged light during the night—I use shop lights suspended on a bookcase. Deborah lines her bookcase with aluminum foil for maximum reflection. My Idaho brother, Mike, puts a little heater in his greenhouse to defy the snow piling up outside. Keep these sprigs misted but not wet. I like to start in 2"x2"; Lou pops his cuttings directly into 4"x4" containers. I spritz mine with very dilute fertilizer. Corralitos starts most of theirs from last year's pot roots, in bottom-warmed greenhouse benches. Last year Phil planted his Corralitos plugs the second week of March; by the end of April his garden yielded lavish bouquets.



The dividing gift you give yourself

A second option for jump starting your spring dahlias is to put your tubers in light potting soil in milk cartons and stash them in a warm spot. I bivouac my beauties in my loft; Paula uses a high shelf in a second story closet. You could choose a warm, sunny window. **DO NOT WATER** until you see little green sprouts; then begin with just a tablespoon of water at a time. Tubers have no roots; they will rot in the presence of too much moisture.



Lou's tubers wearing their winter rain caps

Start perusing the on-line catalogs. Order some fun new dahlias to surprise yourself and delight your fellow dahlianistas. Check the ADS Classification Book to make sure you are not seduced by dulcet persiflage overly lauding certain cultivars.

Devorah reminded me about plying weed suppression cloth over your plot so you don't have to rip up interlopers all winter. A lower tech solution I've seen them using in Golden Gate Park is flattened cardboard boxes. Weeds cannot erupt without exposure to sunlight. Block off this vital access and you thwart upstarting weeds.

Now is the time to add "hot" amendments to your plot. Chicken or fresh horse manure need 4-6 weeks to mix in with your other soil organisms; it's great to get them in before our major rains. Nab your neighbors' leaves and compost those into your ground. Like voracious teenagers, you need to provide a full larder for your growing dahlias come spring. If you've left your clumps in, try covering the stalks with plastic bags or tinfoil. I used tinfoil last year and the raven's turned the shiny coverings into crazy mating ritual sacrifices

Yours in Dirt,
Deborah

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Originally Organized
In 1917
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Coming to a tuber sale near you

[Click here for past issues of the DSC newsletter](#)

Like what you see? Visit the DSC for even more dahlia information. And if you are not a DSC member yet be sure to join.
sfdahlias.org

