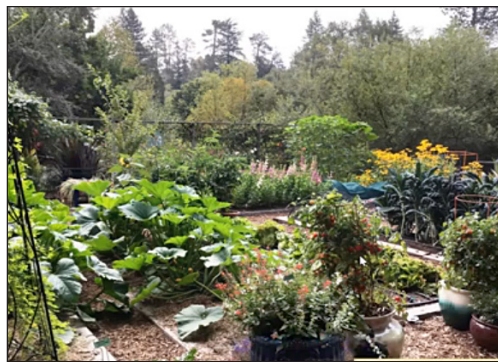


On March 9, the SCHS hosted Renee Shepherd, founder of the popular Renee's Garden website (www.reneesgarden.com), which sells seeds and dispenses invaluable advice on "growing your own" veggies, herbs and ornamentals. For this presentation Shepherd focused largely on seeds for gardeners who want to cook a wide range of fresh, seasonal meals from their own garden, and she generously brought along seed packets for audience members.



Based in Santa Cruz, California, Renee's Garden sells seeds that are sourced internationally but have been trialed in her local test gardens as well as in Vermont, to ensure her offerings can grow successfully in a range of climate zones. She selects seeds for both kitchen and cutting gardens, basing her final choices on factors that are most useful when planting a home garden, including color, size, flavor, longevity and nutritional value. Her company offers heirloom (open-pollinated and over 50 years old) and hybrid (cutivars chosen for specific traits) varieties, and she believes a combination of both is best for home gardeners to provide more variety over a longer growing season.



Shepherd shared pictures of her trial gardens in Felton (near Santa Cruz) and explained that she grows everything in raised beds or in containers. Seed varieties intended for containers are a speciality of hers, as these smaller or more compact varieties enable gardeners with limited space to grow a larger selection of plants. Additionally, she sells seed mixes that are designed to

be grown together, and when harvested at the same time can create a ready-to-eat meal. Selected to provide a mixture of color, texture and taste, they include pre-mixed greens such as her "Farmer's Market Lettuce Blend," "Renee's Stir Fry Mix," and the "Edible Landscape Mix." She also showed varieties of mixed specialty and rainbow vegetables like rattlesnake and purple pole beans, Mascotte bush beans (suitable for containers), edamame, a 5-color beet mix, her "Circus Circus" tri-color carrot mix, various cucumbers, eggplants, kohlrabi, mini pak choi, a large selection of chili and roasting peppers as well as radishes, squash, melons and tomatoes.



In addition to growing her own produce, Shepherd has published three kitchen garden cookbooks: *Recipes from a Kitchen Garden*, *More Recipes From a Kitchen Garden* and *Renee's Garden Cookbook*. In this program, she shared some tips on making tomato sauce, a colorful salad and a watermelon rainbow sherbert, as well as growing culinary herbs and other edibles to season all your favorite recipes. On offer through Renee's Garden are: arugulas, basil, cilantro, oregano, lavender, saffron crocus, alpine strawberries, tea herbs and even edible blossoms such as nasturtiums and pansies.

Afterward, Shepherd answered questions from the live and Zoom audiences which can be seen online along with the archived presentation.

🌿 Sabine Steinmetz

All photos courtesy of speaker.

Link to view entire program:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SvCdurFwMZg>



**HORT YARD SALE RECAP
& UPCOMING EVENT**

On March 18, the SCHS held its first Horticultural Yard Sale of 2023 at Baker's Acres in Tarzana with a number of new vendors as well as returning favorites. Despite having been rescheduled due to rain, we had a good turnout, and visitors were able to browse for all manner of garden-related items, ceramics, containers, art and of course, a wonderful selection of plants.

On Saturday, May 13 we will be returning to Baker's for a hands-on kids program with horticultural educator Steve List from Sylmar Charter High School. Details will be announced as soon as they are finalized, but meantime mark your calendars so you don't miss this event!

*We would like to thank
Laurel Jaramillo of Baker's Acres
for letting SCHS use her nursery
as a venue for these events!*

SCHS MONTHLY GARDEN SHARE

"April flowers" and a lot more...

- Continue adding annual color and seasonal veggies that will last into and through the summer.
- Get your tomatoes started now or add a few more – it's that time!
- If you've been thinking of starting a compost pile, maybe do so now. During the coming months of active growth you'll have lots of fresh clippings to build it up with.
- Finish weeding & mulching once the rains are gone before active growing season begins in earnest.
- Don't forget to make time to go on some garden tours or take a stroll in your local public gardens – you deserve it!

🌿 Sabine Steinmetz

Learn more about SCHS and connect with us online at:

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