

# Silent Auction Report Fall 2015

*AIS Director Debbie Strauss*

There were approximately 531 people registered for the Portland 2015 convention. We had 140 people place winning bids on 360 items including 100 donated new iris. Total money received from the silent auction was more than **\$5,933**. We had 12 AIS Region Raisin' Baskets donated by Regions 2, 6, 8, 11, 14, 17, 18, 20, 21, 23. We raised **\$2,222** from iris donated by 13 amazing hybridizers this spring. Please thank them by ordering their iris and recommending them to your friends: Mark Grumbine, Joe Pye Weed's Garden-Jan Sacks & Marty Schafer, Lauer's Flowers-Larry Lauer, Mt. Pleasant Iris Farm-Chad Harris, Superstition Iris Gardens-Rick Tasco & Roger Duncan, Winterberry Gardens-Don & Ginny Spoon, Schreiner's Iris Gardens, Tom Burseen's Laboratory, Comanche Acres Iris Gardens-Jim Hedgecock, Adobe Iris Garden-Steve Kelly, Abbey Gardens-Nancy Price & Dave Silverburg, Bay View Gardens-Joe Ghio, Napa Country Iris Gardens-John & Lesley Painter and Chapman Iris-Chuck Chapman.

More than **\$1000** was raised by the *Raisin'* Region Baskets. In 2012, I could not remember what part of our country each region was in. This made me interested in learning more about each region. Then I knew there were probably many other people who would be interested in learning to. So I combined this interest with my idea for ways to raise more money from the SA. This is how the Raisin Region Basket idea and fundraiser began in 2012. Each year we have a different number of regions participate. For the 2015 SA it was 10 regions and 12 baskets. This year we also had an incoming HIPS President, Cathy Egerer and *Roots* Editor, Nancy McDonald, who work at Pickle Barrel Historic Iris Display Garden in Grand Marais, MI, donate a basket of items as well as four lovely historic iris. I keep having clubs call me and say that their RVP has not talked to them about this part of the Silent Auction. I pass out flyers at the Spring AIS Convention RVP and Affiliate meetings, but this does not reach many of the local clubs. Is there some reason the board does not want to include the flyer in the mailings to the local affiliates with their show supplies? Or could I get the chair of the affiliates to send a pdf to all the affiliates?

Nick and I want to thank everyone who donated so we could have such an awesome silent auction and for all who participated in the bidding process. We would also like to thank all the Regions who helped us out so much with the exceptional baskets. And lastly, we would like to give an enormous thank you to all the hybridizers who gave so freely of their lovely iris. It is, in a big way, because of them that we had such a successful silent auction.

We know the attendance in New Jersey will be quite a bit different than in Portland. I have written articles for the Summer edition of *Irises* and Nick wrote one for the Fall one. *New and Notes* has helped by including information links about donation request. I will mail iris requests to the hybridizers in December and then follow-up with postcard reminders in February.

Nick and I give special thanks to Presby Gardens for accepting shipped donations for New Jersey.

**Mark the outside of your box—2016 AIS CONVENTION SILENT AUCTION DONATION.**

**Please do not use the US postal service but send items via UPS or FedEx.**

**Send your donations to:**

**Presby Memorial Iris Gardens  
% Nancy Skjei-Lawes  
474 Upper Mountain Avenue  
Montclair NJ 07043**

Lastly, once again, board members please go through your treasures and see what you can part with and donate it to our 2016 silent auction. Please spread the word to anyone you know who might be doing spring cleaning (or winter sorting) to consider donating to The American Iris Society. And of course when doing your estate planning, remember us as a way to get new loving homes for your treasures. I have already told my kids and husband, that AIS Silent Auction is to receive my 1000's of iris pretties!!