

Judith Taylor, MD

Dr. Taylor is a board-certified neurologist, born in London and educated at Oxford. Her interests include the history of medicine and its companion discipline, the history of botany. For millennia, medical treatment relied almost completely on the extracts of plants; Dr. Taylor has published a number of short pieces on medical and botanical history, and participated in several symposia. For many years, she practiced neurology and taught at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York. Subsequently, she became a medical administrator, working first for the city of New York, and later for two large insurance companies.

Her first book, *The Olive in California: History of an Immigrant Tree*, (Ten Speed Press 2000), was the start of a project that required a great deal of delving into California's history, particularly its agriculture and horticulture (topics are not taught in English schools!). The process was enriching and laid the groundwork for her second book, *Tangible Memories: Californians and their Gardens 1800 to 1950*. This work was inspired by an unpublished manuscript by Harry Butterfield and a long-term study of the field of California horticultural history, which included contacting local history societies and garden clubs, and travelling all over the state, seeking old gardens. Dr. Taylor took courses at the University of California at Berkeley Extension Program, and joined the California Garden and Landscape History Society during this time.

Pursuing the migration of plants led Dr. Taylor to write a third book: *The Global Migration of Ornamental Plants: How the World Got into Your Garden* (in press). The foundation of the book is a quantitative analysis of how many plants entered the United States from the Orient and the Southern Hemisphere and when this occurred. Her fourth book is to be about the lives and work of the great hybridizers: *A Race Apart: Plant Breeders and Their Obsessions*.