



# Riviera Garden Club

## Sea Breeze

COSTA VERDE DISTRICT, CGCI, PACIFIC REGION, NGC

Volume 58, Issue No. 1

August/September 2015

### FROM OUR PRESIDENTS



Marilyn Rubin and Charlie Sappington

**Marilyn Rubin** says, “**My first grandchild** (of the twenty unborn Rubin grandchildren I frequently discuss) **has finally been conceived.**” Marilyn and husband Sherwin will officially be first time grandparents next March. Their eldest son and his lovely Japanese wife shared the happy news with them just before her siblings and nieces arrived from Japan for a California visit.

**Charlie Sappington** is pleased to share with you her LOVE OF GARDENING through two beautifully poignant poems she created last week. Charlie’s original works are included on pages 2 and 3.

It’s been a busy summer for Marilyn and Charlie. Both of us enjoyed visits from our grown children. Both of us are still composting food scraps and yard waste. We have HAPPY worms, lots of compost and healthy gardens.

We look forward to seeing you at the Welcome Back Potluck where we’ll tell you about the CGCI convention we attended in Reno last summer.

**Happy Gardening!**

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### WELCOME BACK POTLUCK

Tuesday Sept. 22, 2015 10 a.m.

**Redondo Beach Women’s Club**

Corner of Broadway and Pearl

Across the street from the RB Fire Dept.

**Invite a friend who might potentially want to become a Riviera Garden Club member.**

Bring *more* salads/main dishes than desserts

**FREE parking** one block away at the R.B. Methodist church parking lot at Torrance Blvd.

**PENNY PINES TABLE** Until we have a **P.P.** chairman the *new* Penny Pines policy is

**You price it! You bring it!**

**You also take it back home**

***IF it doesn’t sell!***

Learn about this years’ RGC events.

Hear what the “gifting committee” recommends.

Bring your checkbook \$\$\$\$ to sign up for the October 27 excursion to Orange.

**RSVP:** Eunice Hargrove  
310-375-5176

**Bus Excursion to Orange Oct. 27**

We will visit M and M Nursery in Orange. M and M specializes in **Fairy Gardens**. After our visit to this highly-praised nursery, we will stop in Old Town Orange for shopping and lunch on our own. Meet at Lago Seco Park at 9 a.m. **\$25**

Contact Lynn Fernandez 310-729-5973 or [Lynn.Fernandez2003@cox.net](mailto:Lynn.Fernandez2003@cox.net).

Mail checks to:  
Lynn Fernandez  
3352 Via La Selva,  
Palos Verdes Estates, CA 90274

**Poem by Charlie Sappington**



Night Blooming Cereus  
"Queen of the Night"

Oh! The sight and the fragrance!  
There is no other of such beauty.  
It beckons you into the night.  
See into my garden in the darkness.  
You will find nothing so mysterious,  
So glorious as the flower from the  
Night Blooming Cereus.

Written by Charlie Sappington on August 5, 2015  
inspired by her garden

**Member News & Tidbits**

July Birthdays		August Birthdays		September Birthdays	
Nan Clancy	4	Phyllis DeCrescenzo	13	Lynn Fernandez	2
Wendy Tsuji	10	Emily Lacina	14	Aleen Houston	5
Gloria Balcom	23	Lillian Kitagawa	18	Sharon Saffer	19
Bill Blischke	27			Laurie Vaillant	20
Bobbie Davison	28			George Unrine	24
Donna Monette	29			Kathryn Joiner	26
Lana Terry	29			Connie Moseley	29

**Ethel Sellers Remembered**

**Ethel Sellars**, a member of The Riviera Garden Club since 1980 died July 2, 2015. She is remembered by neighbor and friend **June Stevenson** and also by past president **Karen Lent**. Ethel Sellars had served as co-president of RGC with **Nadyne Shelton** in 1990 but told Karen her favorite position was Landscape Award chairperson. She and **John Sellars**, her husband, spent much time driving through Riviera neighborhoods checking out gardens.

Ethel explained that meetings were held in private homes. **June Stevenson**, Ethel's next door neighbor, remembers the Christmas parties where Ethel and John invited friends and neighbors to their home for refreshments and used Ethel's beautiful English bone china. Ethel and John lived in the Riviera almost 60 years and raised their three children here. June Stevenson noted that many current RGC members "did not have the pleasure of knowing Ethel" and that "Ethel was a true asset to the Riviera Garden Club." A Penny Pines Plantation from RGC will be donated in honor of past president and honorary RGC member, Ethel Sellars.



### Calendar of Events

**September 3, Wed** Officers' Training Workshop

Robin Pokorski: presenter St. Gregory's Episcopal Church. Long Beach \$25 info: 562-889-1171

**September 15, Tue., 9:30 a.m.** RGC Board Meeting

Marilyn Rubin's home, Connie Moseley, co-hostess

**September 22, Tue., 10 a.m.** RGC General Meeting and Potluck

Redondo Beach W. Club

**October 7, Wed., Costa Verde Dist. Tea** in Honor of

Helen Gates' 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday (Gardeneers G.C)

**October 20, Tue., 9:30 a.m.** RGC Board Meeting

Toni Sargent's home, Betty Moye, co-hostess

**October 27, Tue.,** RGC Bus Excursion to Orange. We'll visit M and M Nursery which specializes in Fairy Gardens and succulents.

Lunch on your own in Old Town Orange. \$25  
Contact Lynn Fernandez. 310-729-5973

*One week early due to Thanksgiving*

**November 10, Tue., 9:30 a.m.** RGC Board Meeting

Toni Ziegler's home Nancy Weaver, co-hostess

*One week early due to Thanksgiving*

**November 17, Tue., 9:30 a.m.** RGC General

Meeting hostesses: Pati Johnson,

Linda Rosenfeld, Connie Moseley

### Phyllis DeCrescenzo Honored

By Marilyn Rubin

**Phyllis DeCrescenzo** was recognized by the California Consultants Council (CCC) of the California Garden Clubs, Inc (CGCI) for replacing two barren parcels of land within El Retiro Park with succulent gardens.

Phyllis created her own landscape design and donated all of the succulents to complete the two projects. She also volunteers weekly to maintain these two gardens along with a team of regular RGC volunteer workers.

**Phyllis DeCrescenzo** is a member of the South Coast Cacti and Succulent Society as well as the Riviera Garden Club. As you remember, last year Phyllis held four workshops in her succulent filled back yard where RGC members filled designer pots with varied succulents from Phyllis' own huge collection. Riviera Garden Club members created extraordinarily beautiful living works of art for our very successful pre-Mothers' Day plant sale.

This author is pleased that our very generous, gracious and charming garden club friend, **Phyllis DeCrescenzo**, was awarded this CGCI honor for her community enrichment efforts.

### THE GARDEN

By Charlie Sappington

In spring we sow, we plant, we seed, we nurture, we feed and we weed.

The garden grows with promise and excitement.

As we move into the warmth and heat of the long days,

We see the plants grow and thrive. In summer we now reap the harvest of our labor.

The flowers of fragrance and beauty, the produce so strong and abundant.

As we gather our bounty, we give thanks for the pleasure of being alive

And doing the work of the GARDENER.

## A Sad Good bye to Anne Jensen

By **Gloria Balcom**

We are sad to announce the passing of long-time RGC member **Anne Jensen** on August 12. She lost her long and brave fight surrounded by her close and loving family.

Anne Jensen was a talented artist, a dedicated teacher, and an avid gardener. She and her husband Bob also enjoyed traveling throughout the world. Anne joined the Riviera Garden Club in 1999 and was a 2nd VP in 2007. She will be missed.

### The Learning Garden Classes

By **Kathryn Joiner**

Grow your own food the organic way!  
Learn the keys to successful vegetable gardening that emphasize seasonal techniques and organic practices.

Daytime classes are held 9:00 a.m. outdoors at the Torrance Memorial Learning Garden in Columbia Park's Community Garden.

Instructor **Judith Gerber** is a UC Master Gardener and Horticulture Therapist.  
\$10 per class

**Sept. 21- Grow Your Own Soup Garden**  
**Oct. 19 - Seed Saving/Seed Swap**  
**Nov. 16 - Plan an Edible Winter Garden**

Call Torrance Memorial Advantage Program to pre-register **310-517-4666**  
E mail [judith.gerber@tmmc.com](mailto:judith.gerber@tmmc.com)

## Landscape Awards



June 2015 – The Neidert-Doyle residence –  
206 Via Los Altos



May 2015 – the Simon residence –  
4626 Paseo de las Tortugas

For more information check out our website at [www.rivieragardenclub.org](http://www.rivieragardenclub.org)

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