



Presidents – Wendy Tsuji & Geneva Martin
Editor – Geneva Martin

February/March 2008

Issue 1

Costa Verde District, CGCI, NGC

Email us at president@rivieragardenclub.org

Check out our website at www.rivieragardenclub.org

Our schedule is online at www.localendar.com/public/RivGarden

The Presidents Message:

Happy New Year

It's hard to believe that the second half of the year is already beginning!

The California Garden Club offers awards, some monetary, to clubs in various categories. Information on these can be found on their website, and in their awards manual of which we have a copy, should you be interested in borrowing. Most of these awards are due by February 1st. The packet for the club yearbook award has been submitted and we have been putting together the club newsletter packet and evidence books for Mary and Pati's workshops, and for the club program of last year. It gives us a chance to reflect on RGC accomplishments.

Wendy & Geneva

Help with Newsletter

Several of you volunteered to help with the newsletter. We always need articles – even if we have trouble fitting them all in – short write-ups on the regular and CVD meetings are always appreciated, as well as garden tips, gardens visits and other garden items. We would love to have you help with the editing also; this would be a good way to see if you would like to be the future newsletter editor.

Geneva

Hospital Therapy

Thanks to all members who donated the well needed items for male patients at Harbor UCLA Hospital. The items, with an estimated value around \$400, are appreciated.

Thank you June Stevenson.

Salvation Army Angels

Many thanks to the Riviera Garden Club members who so generously donated to the gifts

for The Salvation Army. Dave Risher, the director of His House (the social service division of The Salvation Army) was so appreciative. All the toys, clothes and financial donations helped to give the needy a better holiday.

Thank you all Toni Sargent

Membership News

Hi Riviera Garden Club Ladies

Well, 2007 ended with "Santa Claus and me" having FUN at the South Bay Grill for our Christmas Party! We had 42 members and guests enjoying the food and entertainment as "The Harmony Group," dressed in period costumes, sang Christmas Carols! Everyone went home with a poinsettia and a Christmas pad! Now there are only 330 days left until our next Christmas Party.

In November, we had a new member join:

Bobette (Bobbie) Davison

Husband: Paul

232 Calle de Madrid, Redondo Beach, 90277

310-791-6307

bobbiedavison@earthlink.net

Let's ALL be sure to welcome Bobbie in the new year--let's ALL come and say "Happy New Year" to each other!! And let's encourage others to join!!

Third Vice-President—Pam Barrett

Sunshine News

Edith Dees' husband Bob is home from the hospital. Delaine Anthony reports good news on her husband's treatments in January.

Mercedes Murner would enjoy birthday cards from club members. She likes bright colors with flowers or dogs. Her birthday is at the end of February, but please go ahead and send them now to Kathy Lipp's address.

Reported by Margaret Majid

Our Garden Corner

Our Small Plants in Baskets Demonstration



Pati Johnson (right) helps student fill container.

The workshop brought fifteen ladies to El Retiro Library on Saturday morning, November 3. It was such a fun way to get over the fear of making beautiful plant arrangements in baskets. Pati Johnson's calm disposition made her a natural teacher for everyone from the novice to expert gardeners attending. The plants Pati selected included violets, ivy, coleus and chrysanthemums. Our members donated baskets.

Many asked about our club, and they received and a leaflet with our contact information and took home their beautiful baskets. It was a successful community outreach program. Wendy

Our Concrete Planter Demonstration



Mary pours concrete while members watch.

Mary Varieur demonstrated how to make Hypertufa: lightweight artificial stone containers. She mixed the concrete in a wheelbarrow, and then lined the boxes with plastic greased with Vasoline before pouring in the concrete. Decorative elements are added later. Mary showed us examples of earlier work. Forty two watched in rapt attention.

CVD Corner

Sorry you all couldn't attend our first, annual Holiday Bus Trip and Luncheon. The time we

spent at Roger's Gardens flew, as we were the first bus to invade the nursery. There was something for everyone. Some sat in the sunshine and chatted, while others shopped for precious ornaments and gifts. I loved the varied greenery used to complement pure, white cyclamen in elaborate planters. Simple, yet elegant.

Later, in the garden room at the Five Crown's Restaurant we had warm and efficient service and everyone agreed the food was delicious.

Our next meeting is Wednesday, February 6th. Ric Dykzeul, a former instructor at SCBG, will be speaking about Winter Color in Your Garden. Please come. We will also have an opportunity raffle for the Penny Pines Landscape Project and San Pedro Garden Club will hostess. *Fondly, Judy*

Landscape of the Month Award

January - The Ganalon Family

At **4910 Calle de Arboles** is a brand new garden that beautifully enhances one of the most stunning remodels in the Riviera. This landscape was designed and installed by Scott Martin of Scott Martin Designs. It has a curving border laid out on a gentle slope to accent the Mediterranean style of the home. A handsome flagstone entry path is flanked by a variety of plantings, such as *dodonaea purpurea*, kangaroo paws, *loropetalum*, *salvia*, golden diosma, *lavendula*, *heuchera*, daylilies, and rosemary. An olive tree, 3 crape myrtles, a prunus and many fruit trees provide a graceful architectural balance as they meander across the slope.

December - The Antongiorgi Family

At **547 Calle Mayor** This new landscape, conceived by landscape architect Brian Ackerman and installed by Martinez Bros., was born out of a need to repair drainage issues, as well as provide some private space, buffer the home from a busy street and add curb appeal. The result is a handsome combination of earth toned concrete pads and steps and a mini forest of mature and stately trees with an under story of shrubs, grasses and groundcover. The main trees are birch, white crape myrtle and deciduous western red bud, which will be a blaze of bronze and maroon when leafed out. Other plants when blooming in spring

will be white Indian hawthorn, white agapanthus, chartreuse euphorbia, Japanese blood grass, pennisetum fountain grass, heuchera “coral bells” and myoporum ground cover.

November - Barney Little

At 328 Avenida Atezada Perched above a busy street with incredible views, this garden showcases an exuberant planting of 'Richmondensis' Begonia, Lobelia, Potato Vine, Canna and Mexican Sage which provides lively color most of the year with enough evergreen leaf structure in between. Lots and lots of color was the owner's main request and Pedro Gutierrez (310-200-1146) has provided it. He removed 1 foot of original soil and replaced it with premium top soil and Gro-Mulch, which provides rich nutrients. As a result very little fertilizer is required and the plants are thriving. All gardeners should take note of this highly recommended procedure. The key to a healthy garden is the quality of the soil.

Ruth Vogel

Interviews by Karen

80 Years Young

June Young



It's surprising to learn that our RGC Treasurer became an octogenarian in October. June Young became a member of the Rivera Garden Club after a neighbor invited her to a meeting. June had just retired from Hughes Aircraft where she had been an executive secretary. At the time, Jean Levanas was president of the club and June went on to

become president herself later.

Born in Taft, California, a “hot, boring oil town,” June thought she was in heaven when her family moved to Burbank – she loved the milder weather and all the activities available so close to hand. She was a “Sinatraphile,” loved the theatre (especially musicals), dancing and most music, including opera. Madam Butterfly is her favorite.

Organized, always immaculately dressed with coordinated jewelry she most likely designed herself, it's amazing to learn that petite June was crew for her energetic sailor husband Ray, now

deceased. Besides her love of the ocean, she is an avid collector of cranberry glass, crystal lamps, and jewelry and porcelain dolls. June loves to knit plus designs and sews all her own clothing.

June met her husband-to-be at a singles dance at the old Roosevelt Hotel ballroom in Hollywood. Their connection was a love of music. They also both enjoyed dancing and took lessons for many years. Ray was an R & D Engineer at Hughes Aircraft. June said he could do anything and did. He remodeled their upper Riviera home all by himself. He did a wonderful job, adding a second story and constructing both floors like the prow of a ship to take advantage of the sweeping views. Ray also designed and installed a beautiful stained glass window reclaimed from a church as a dining room window in their home.

The piano is June's love. Classically trained, June won a contest at age 17 to play with the Burbank Symphony Orchestra. She taught piano for many years and was also a pianist for the “Notables,” a chorale music group formed by Hughes employees, for 24 years. She still plays daily in her living room on her beautiful, 100 year-old Knabe grand piano.

June has two grown children, a boy and girl, who both live locally. She is delighted that both her grandchildren have inherited her joy of music, and are majoring in music at Cal State University.

June grows and cares for over 50 roses in her well-maintained garden. Her favorite rose is the coral-colored Gemini. June has been on the RGC Board since joining the club, 14 years ago, holding many different positions. Her favorite position was 1st V.P. (Programs). This year is her fourth turn at Treasurer. We thank you June for your many years of service to RGC as well as keeping our green backs accounted for!

Karen Lent

Yearbook Correction

First Standing Rule

The first standing rule should read:

1. Dues for the 2007/8 years shall be as follows:
Active Members Thirty dollars (\$30) per year
Associate Members Forty dollars (\$40) per year

Sea Breeze



Our Calendar Section

February 26th Fund Raiser Trip

Come and enjoy the Riviera Garden Club's first tour, the cost is \$25.00. We stop first at Rolling Greens Nursery in Culver City. They are known as the best-kept secret in Southern California to the professionals and are now open to the public. Everything you need to complete your garden project can be found here.

Our second stop will be at the Sculpture Gardens in Venice: a unique hidden treasure with unusual plants, trees, succulents and garden art. This beautiful walk-through garden shows a wide array of plantscape ideas for your home gardens. There are four lovely restaurants surrounding the garden for lunch on your own, Lilly's French Cafe & Bar, Primitivo Wine Bistro, Joe's and Meditirina Cafe. Claudeene

March 26th Succulent Workshop

Please start saving small margarine size plastic containers and note which succulent plants you will bring

April 5th Fund Raiser Plant and Bake Sale

This fund raiser is marked in your yearbook for Saturday April 5 at the home of Charlie Sappington. Please save gardening items like pots, garden art, tools, etc. Separate plants and start seedlings now. Also, begin grooming plants you want to donate. A little extra loving care now can make a big difference later.

April 14th Fund Raiser Trip

Mark your calendars for our second tour on Monday April 14th and treat yourself to a day at the Huntington, the cost is \$30.00. The new Chinese Garden will be open and the Rose Garden will be in full bloom. Lunch will be on your own at the Cafe for a quick bite or the Rose Garden Tea Room with a prior reservation. Claudeene

Riviera Garden Club Events.

<i>Feb 12 10-11:30</i>	Rocketship Park
<i>Feb 26 8:30</i>	Bus trip to Rolling Greens Nursery and Venice Sculpture Garden Nominating Committee Elected
<i>Mar 11 10-11:30</i>	Rocketship Park
<i>Mar 25 9:30-noon</i>	General Meeting, Home of Pati Johnson, 425 Via El Chico. Succulent Workshop. Election of New Officers Hostesses: *Anna Watson, Eunice Hargrove, Ruth Vogel
<i>Mar 28</i>	Sea Breeze submittal deadline
<i>Apr 5 8-1</i>	Fund Raiser Plant Sale, Home of Charlie Sappington, 5025 Lee Street, Torrance
<i>Apr 14 10:30</i>	Bus trip to Huntington Library

District, State and Other Club Events

<i>Feb 6, 9:30-noon</i>	CVD General Meeting, SCBG, Speaker: Ric Dykzeul on Winter Color in Your Garden
<i>Apr 2, 9:30-noon</i>	CVD General Meeting, SCBG, Speaker: Jeanne Scherf, Bristol Farms Floral Dept. Manager
<i>Apr 3-5</i>	Pacific Region Convention, Portland, OR.
<i>Apr 24</i>	CVD Bus trip to Costa Mesa Flower Show
<i>Apr 24-29</i>	NGC Convention, Memphis, TN

April Huntington Library Bus Trip

Please note the change of date and time which is set for Monday April 14 at 10:30am.