



Presidents – Wendy Tsuji & Geneva Martin
Editor – Geneva Martin

April/May 2009
Issue 2

Costa Verde District, CGCI, Pacific Region, 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:

New Members Orientation

We are looking forward to seeing you Tuesday morning, April 14th, at Mimi's Café in Torrance. Menu selection and other details are on the last page in the *Our Calendar Section*. If you have not RSVP'd yet, please contact us! Do come to socialize and hear our officers and chairpersons share their knowledge! *Wendy & Geneva*

Your Help is Appreciated

Blue Star Dedication

Riviera Garden Club will dedicate a Blue Star Memorial Highway Marker at 1 pm on April 19th, Sunday at Torrance Fire Station #4 on the corner of Pacific Coast Highway and Calle Mayor.

During the dedication ceremony tribute will be paid to our military personnel and the marker will be presented to Torrance Mayor Frank Scotto. The ceremony is expected to last about a half hour or so and all are welcome to attend. Call George to help.

El Retiro Library

The El Retiro Library is closing for remodeling on April 27th. It is scheduled to reopen in July. Thank you to all of our members who have used their creative talents and placed an arrangement at the library. After the remodel we will once again do this service. *Pati*

Nominating Committee

Thanks to our Nominating Committee of Jean Vasquez, June Stevenson, and new member Gloria Rezek for their excellent work! They are delighted to announce that the following slate of officers was approved at the March 24 meeting.

Nominating Committee Report

Co-Presidents Karen Lent & Shelley Lubinsky
1st Vice president (Programs) Cecilia Caesar,
Marilyn Rubin & Open
2nd VP (Yearbook) Geneva Martin
3rd VP (Membership) Eunice Hargrove
Co-Secretaries Ginnie Schneider & Open
Treasurer Open

Membership News

New Members

We're happy to welcome to our club four new members who love to garden. Alberta enjoys making new friends, and babysitting her 3-year-old granddaughter several times a week. Gerri has a wonderful succulent garden that won our landscape award. It continues along her side yard, and to the back, where she has a spectacular ocean view. Ann finds time for tutoring children, loves music, and traveling. Lola also loves cactus and succulents, and keeps busy as a board member of the League of Women Voters and the South Coast Botanic Gardens.

Brice, Alberta (Gary) (310)373-8046
22603 Evalyn Ave. Torrance 90505-3430

Everist, Gerri geverist@socal.rr.com (310)373-0992
301 Via Mesa Grande Redondo Beach 90277-6641

Pfister, Ann Gilbreth (310)371-6307
19406 Beckworth Ave Torrance 90503-1321

Ungar, Lola skyhawk172@socal.rr.com (310)375-7410
3903 Bluff St Torrance 90505-6361

Ethel Sellars is recovering from successful kidney surgery. *Eunice Hargrove, Membership Chair*

Gifting Committee Report

Thank You Mary Lou McCammack!

The Club was delighted to receive a surprise donation from Mary Lou McCammack, owner of the lovely “Water House” on our 2008 Garden Tour. (Mary Lou’s green garden gate above the deep blue sea was our signature “Beyond the Garden Gate” picture.) The Club voted to add her generous donation to the Gift Committee reserve fund. Mary Lou we are honored – thank you so much!

Gift Status

The RGC Gift Committee has made field trips and met with Torrance City officials, and foundations and directors at Madrona Marsh and South Coast Botanic Gardens. Expenditures to date have been a \$1,000 gift to the SCBG Dahlia Garden Project, and payment to Ric Dykseul for landscape designs. The Committee is hoping to choose an El Camino College student for a scholarship soon (this will be in addition to our regular high school student scholarship).

Moving along . . . our BIG project (the revamping of the Torrance marker at PCH and PV Blvd.) quite soon. Look for changes!

Our Garden Corner

January, February & March Programs

Our January program was all about geraniums. Our February trip to Jan & Jim Gardner’s and the Point Vincente Interpretive Center brought raves about the succulents, as well as the lunch at Georgio’s. As usual, many of you turned out to make succulent containers.

CVD Corner

South Coast Plaza Spring Garden Show

On April 23rd, the Costa Verde District is again sponsoring a bus trip to South Coast Plaza to see their Spring Garden Show. In addition to the gardens and landscapes on display on the first floor and two floors packed with plant and gardening vendors, there are four seminars you can attend.

10:00 am Japanese Maples in the So. Cal. Landscape or Containers

11:30 am The Different Forms of Garden Ornamentation

1:00 pm Orchid Culture 101

2:30 pm Victories in Gardening and Gardening Basics

The bus leaves Peck Park at 8:30 am and returns about 4:30 pm. The cost this year is \$10 with lunch on your own. Reserve your spot by sending a check payable to Costa Verde District to Lorraine Ornelas (310) 833-9723
2731 Kerckhoff Ave.
San Pedro, CA 90731-6519

Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl

Thanks to Judy Unrine, the CVD district had three first place winners in the Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl poster contest this year. The winners, all from Torrance, were First Grade: Uiallii Coleman, Fourth Grade: Ashley Leyman, Fifth Grade: C. Ulualo Coleman.

Landscape of the Month Award

March 2009

Lisa and Mike Narowski, 251 Via la Circula

When Lisa and Mike recently updated their Via la Circula ranch house to a more contemporary look, they asked local landscape designer Ric Dykseul to help with the outdoor plan. After the successful backyard redo, they asked him to do the front as well. The Narowskis and Ric have created a serene water wise oasis.

Two strawberry trees stand as sentries to the yard, inviting guests and hummingbirds. A flagstone path is planted with dymondia and framed with blue succulents and elfin thyme. A surprising stylish black stone fountain sprouts from a circle of decomposed granite set off-center in the front yard. Native plants create a palette of varied and striking color. Some of this color is achieved with “midnight” Mexican sage, bronze flax, yellow yarrow, “big red” kangaroo paw and Santa Barbara daisy. An interesting recast stone driveway leads to the flagstone porch. Drive by for a surprising treat!

February 2009

Janice and Norman Basmajian, 4003 Paseo de los Tortugas

A delightful February surprise, the Basmajian’s yard is filled with color: white iceberg and pink roses, yellow snapdragons and touches of purple interspersed with dusty miller. The small front

yard has a slate patio and walkway that leads to the neat contemporary house. The house and yard are framed by white-painted brick which highlight the colorful plantings. The whole effect is organized and pristine.

The Basmajian's son owns Southern California Tree and Landscaping whose gifted, green thumbbed employee, Luis, takes charge of their yard. Norman and Janice are native Californians and raised their three children (who have blessed them with nine grandchildren) in Torrance. They have lived in the city-view Tortugas home for twenty years. A son in law, Michael Cotton, was a former President of the Riviera Homeowners Association (this was unknown to Shelley and Karen – honest! – at selection time!).

LANDSCAPE AWARDS by Shelley and Karen

Interviews by Karen



Ginnie Schneider Receives the 2009 Cardinal Award

Our Riviera Garden Club Secretary, Ginnie Schneider, was a 2009 Cardinal Award Honoree at a gala event held at the Kodak Theatre in February. This award is presented annually by the Los Angeles Archdiocese to individuals who have given in extraordinary ways to the community. This year, three others besides Ginnie were honored, including Hall of Fame Broadcaster, Vince Scully.

Ginnie and her late husband George were founding participants of St. Lawrence Church, Bishop Montgomery High School and Little Company of Mary Hospital. The Schneiders were also instrumental in initiating the Nursing Institute at Little Company, affiliated with El Camino.

Many congratulations to Ginnie and thanks from us all for your good works!

What You May Not Know About Ginnie

Ginnie joined the RGC almost fifteen years ago after Jean Levanas brought her to a Madhatter Luncheon. Ginnie has been Club Secretary for several years now and has also been involved with Landscape Awards. She is also a regular volunteer at Little Company of Mary Hospital and St. Lawrence Church.

Ginnie and George raised ELEVEN children in their Calle Miramar residence where they resided for 55 years. She now has 24 grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren. There will be an Alaskan Cruise this summer to celebrate Ginnie's 85th birthday. All of the FIFTY family members will be cruising together!

They became a couple while they both were attending Marquette University in Wisconsin. Ginnie said George wanted to "caste his own shadow." He became a business entrepreneur, starting his own businesses, including Bay Cities Bank and the successful reorganization of Lacrosse footwear.

Patience and optimism are Ginnie's virtues. These qualities helped with all those parochial school uniforms needing to be ironed before the era of permanent press! She also has humorous stories about going to serve a specially prepared dessert for dinner guests and finding it devoured.

She says the one thing people would be surprised to know about her is that she was spoiled by her father (she was the only girl among four children). The person she admired most was her mother, who was widowed early. Ginnie found her to be brave, non-judgmental and inspiring.

Ginnie loves to travel plus she is often in Oregon, Wisconsin, Vermont and Virginia visiting family. The family wanted Ginnie to move to Oregon, where most of the family lives, after George passed away 4 years ago. Ginnie said she couldn't leave – the Riviera is her home. Ginnie Schneider is the reason I joined the Garden Club – that inspiration thing just keeps carrying on!

Thanks Ginnie for your inspiration, hard work and devotion to the community! *Karen Lent*

Sea Breeze



Our Calendar Section

April 14– New Member Orientation

Meet at 9:30am – 11:30am at Mimi's Cafe, room in the back. 25343 Crenshaw Blvd, Torrance. The officers and chairpersons will each give a short talk on their responsibilities.

No Host Breakfast. Breakfast menu selection limited as follows. No substitutions please. Price includes tax and tip. The Telephone Committee will be contacting you to take your order. Please bring exact change!

1. Cheddar and Broccoli quiche served with fresh fruit, red skin potatoes and fresh squeezed juice: \$13.50
2. Ciabatta Breakfast Sandwich: One fried egg, griddled ham, bacon, garlic spinach, tomato, cheddar cheese and citrus remoulade. Served with red skin potatoes: \$12.00
3. Buttermilk pancakes served with 2 eggs & bacon or ham \$12.00
4. Oatmeal: \$ 7.00
5. Blueberry or bran muffin: \$ 5.00

All come with coffee or tea. Juice can be added for \$2.25. Fruit can be added for \$3.00.

April 28– Tour to Aleen Houston's and Meredith Grenier's Gardens

Meet at 9:30am at Aleen's, 21610 Linda Drive, Torrance, where we will tour her garden, have a short meeting and watch her composting demonstration. Note change from yearbook time.

Around 11:30am car share to Meredith's, 5508 Elmbank Road RPV, and tour her garden at noon.

Please pre-arrange car sharing.

May 23rd -Plant Sale

The Riviera Garden Club plant sale will be May 23rd instead of the yearbook date. All plants should be at Charlie Sappington's house by Thursday, May 21st. Pricing will be done on Friday. Please label plants, especially the unusual ones. Please sign up to help.

Riviera Garden Club Events

- April 14 9:30-11:30am** New Member Orientation – Mimi's Cafe
April 19 1pm Blue Star Marker Dedication
April 28 9:30am-1pm General Meeting at Aleen Houston's and Tour of Meredith Grenier's garden
May 23 9am-1pm Plant Sale at Charlie Sappington's
May 26 9:30am-noon General Meeting at Airport Meeting Room, Laural Woodley will speak on 'Discovering the South Coast Botanic Gardens'
June 16 Mad Hatter & Installation Garden Luncheon at Shelley Lubinsky's. Wear your hat decorated with flowers from your yard.

District, State and Other Club Events

- April 16** San Pedro Garden Club trip to Seaside Garden Nursery in Carpentaria and Australian Native Plants nursery in Ventura. Meet at Peck Park at 8:30. Call Kathy to reserve at 310-832-6686.
April 18 Plant Sale at South Coast Botanic Gardens
April 23 CVD Bus Trip to Costa Mesa Flower Show
June 24 CVD General Meeting and Installation