



Riviera Garden Club

Sea Breeze

Issue No. 9

February – March 2011

From our Presidents

Karen Lent & Shelley Lubinsky

Email us at president@rivieragardenclub.org

It's FINALLY Spring and most of us are planting flowers and veggies. Vegetable gardening is of huge interest to everyone, and we look forward to doing more cooking using veggies we actually grow.

Since one of our goals is education (ourselves and the community), this quote reminds us of this mission:

"Knowledge is knowing that a tomato is a fruit -
Wisdom is NOT putting it in a fruit salad."
(from the San Pedro Garden Club newsletter -
Thank you!)

Your RGC Co-Presidents will soon be finishing up their 2nd year. What fun we've had! We've enjoyed welcoming twelve new members this year. Each member adds to our diversity and talents. We have been so proud to hear from inside and outside the club how welcoming our members are, and so much fun. Hats off to RGC Members for being the BEST!

Speaking of hats, please don't forget our end of the year Luncheon, Mad Hatters, in June. In addition, we have some exciting and educational meetings coming up.

We'll sign off with a fun quote to remember: "If life gives you lemons, make lemonade. If it gives you tomatoes, make Bloody Mary's! Hope to see you all soon.

Happy Gardening to All! *Karen & Shelley*

Designs for Dining -- a great success



Our RGC Design Group (pictured below) had fun setting up "Happy Trails to You" for St. Francis Church Scholarship Fundraiser in March. RGC used Shelley's Pendleton red Southwestern inspired dinnerware for the design impetus. Succulents and cactus with red roses created quite an impact!

There were over 25 tables this year at this fun and delicious event. We thank Naples Garden Club (eight of their charming gals came all the way to support our efforts)! We saw Hermosa Beach Garden Club people Alexis Slafer & Diane Carbaneau. Gudy Kimmel said she liked our table best of all!

Thanks to RGC members, Design Committee, and fellow club members for supporting this charitable event.



(from left) Alberta Brice, Gay Hargrave, Shelley Lubinsky, Claudeene Lyon, Toni Sargent & Mary Varieur (not pictured) Barbara Bratcher Ott, Wendy Tsuji, Karen Lent)

Greystone Mansion Trip Enjoyed by All

We enjoyed our January trip to Beverly Hills and the elegant historic Greystone Mansion. Built by oil tycoon Doheny in 1928, the mansion was proposed to be torn down by a subsequent owner and the property subdivided. The City stepped in to buy the property and use it as a park. Many movies have been filmed at the estate. The bowling alley down-stairs was used in the movie "Let There Be Blood."



Historic Greystone Mansion

Lunch at Shamshira was smashing! Thank you Programs: Marilyn, Carole & Cecilia for arranging all!

Upcoming Meetings and Events

Our last two meetings (April & May) will be at the Torrance Airport Meeting room. Remember to bring your rummage items to help our scholarship fund. Also, take time to browse and buy! Our great gardening gloves are available for \$6.00.

The **April Meeting** will be Members' Sharing. Last year, it was a lot of fun. To participate, please plan to talk for 5-10 mins. about something garden related. If you have pictures, all the better. Contact Marilyn to sign up and also to get your photos in the slideshow.

For the **Succulent Workshop, April 21** at 10 am, bring succulent cuttings & pups to Diana Cranes' for our dish garden project for UCLA Men's Hospital philanthropy. We can also work on some plant propagations, cuttings or plantings for our **May 21**

Plant Sale at Charlie's to support scholarship. Our finale for the year is the Mad Hatters Luncheon in June. Begin thinking about possible hat decorations.

January 2011 Landscape Award



Anne O'Brien & Jack, 416 Calle de Castellano

Appropriately, homeowner Anne O'Brien, an aviatrix, lives in an "airplane house." In architectural terms, it is technically a Mid Century Modern (or International Style Post and Beam Contemporary). The roof line echoes the lines of an airliner. These clean lined modern homes are popular in the Riviera.

After buying her home ten years ago, Anne began a remodel and re-landscaping that would carefully enhance the original architect's intentions. She took landscape classes and educated herself about drought tolerant and ocean friendly gardens.

She also created a Wildlife Habitat (note the sign in her front yard). Dramatic poured-in-place concrete steps lead up to the outdoor porch she refashioned into an outdoor room.

Pampas Grass & Other Invasive Plants. There are many reasons to avoid planting invasive plants, including: the crowding out of native plants, insects and animals; clogged waterways, etc. Invasive plants, such as Pampas Grass, is a leading threat to biodiversity. (See www.plantright.org)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Mar. 30: CVD Bd. Mtg, SCBG, 9:30 am. Parl. Class by Robin Porkowski, 11 am- 1 pm.

Mar. 31: Bunco, 10:30 am - 12:30 pm. (see pg. 4)

Apr. 12: New member tea, 10 am – noon.

Apr. 16: South Coast Botanical Garden Plant Sale.

Apr. 19: RGC Board Mtg., 9:30 am, Marilyn R's.

Apr. 21: Succulent workshop, 10 am, Diana Cranes'.

April 22: Earth Day. Contact Eunice Hargrove, euniceatthebeach@socal.rr.com, w/info on local events/celebrations.

April 26: RGC Gen. Mtg. Member Sharing (garden info). Slide presentations of Philadelphia Garden Show, Chelsea Flower Show & Filoli Gardens.

April 28 – May 1: South Coast Plaza Flower Show.

April 28: CVD Bus Trip to SCP Flower Show. Depart Peck Park, San Pedro, \$12. Call Kathy 310-832-6686.

May 12: Visit Sharon Ratterree's Garden, 10 am.

May 15-19: CGCI Annual State Convention, Sonoma.

May 17: RGC Board Meeting, 9:30 am.

May 21: RGC Plant Sale, 9 am – 4 pm.

May 24: RGC Gen. Mtg., Airport. Fuchsia Tips.

May 25: CVD Board Meeting, SCBG, 9:30 am.

June 1: CVD Installation Luncheon, 9:3 am.

June 5 -11: National Garden Week.

June 14: RGC Mad Hatter Installation Lunch, Blue Water Grill.

Congratulations

February Birthdays

Anne Jensen	02	Martha Bragg	23
Jacquie Lawler	08	Barbara Carrington	23
Glyndis Dean	15	Gay Hargrove	23
Rita Wagstaff	22	Dina Wiley	26

March Birthdays

Cecilia Ceasar	01	Alberta Brice	26
Gloria Rezek	08	Edith Dees	26
Sharon Ratterree	09	Eunice Hargrove	28
Jean Winter	13	Carole Lefevre	31
Toni Sargent	20		

Member News & Tidbits

Edith Dees is now doing well after unfortunately breaking her arm.

Former member **DeLaine Anthony** is having a speedy recovery after a slight stroke and a few days of therapy.

Congratulations to:

Pam Barrett and **Jim Hill** for being honored as THE Sweethearts at the Norris Theatre Valentine Ball.

Toni Sargent for being appointed to the Library Commission.

RGC Members Visit Gardens & Shows

In early March, Pati Johnson was at the fabulous **Philadelphia Garden Show** where the theme is "Paris." (This is the #1 Flower Show in the country.)

Twelve RGC Members & friends will be enjoying a tour and tea at **Filoli Gardens** in late March. This will be followed by several days at the **San Francisco Flower Show** (3rd largest in the country). The theme this year is "Life in the California Garden."

History

Have any old Riviera History lying around? Notebooks, year books, folders, etc.? Our History Committee (Pam Barrett, Judy Unrine & Karen Lent) will gladly visit you and take what you'd like to part with. We have storage space and will start recording our 55 years of club life!

New Members.

- Pramila Dugel (310) 378-3961
623 Calle de Arboles Bday: 8/12
RB, CA 90277-6709 Spouse: Ramesh
rdugel@yahoo.com
- Connie Cohn (310) 379-1127
1407 8th St. Bday: 9/9
MB, CA 90266-6348 Spouse: George
Wavecrasher1@gmail.com

Rocketship Park Renovation

Thanks to the many people who have toiled at Rocketship Park over the years: Kitty Hill, June Young, Betty Moye, Diane Connell and others. Our garden there has become overgrown and the City of Torrance has helped us reduce the growth. Thanks to Gloria Balcom, who plans to adopt this project after our renovation. (We'll let you know about the upcoming work party.)



Rocketship Park: in overgrown condition

Invitation to Sharon's Private Garden

RGC Member, **Sharon Ratterree**, has invited us to visit her lovely backyard garden on Thursday, **May**

12 at 10 am at 26314 Monte Vista Ave., Lomita (2 blocks west of PCH). Car share if you can. Those who choose to can proceed to finish our Chen Art Museum Herb Garden visit (at Sunrider on Carson near Western). No res. is needed to visit the garden. Just check in at the guard gate. Then, lunch anyone?

Upcoming Bunco Game

Don't forget our upcoming Bunco Game on Thursday, March 31, from 10:30 am – 12:30 pm at Kathryn Joiner's home (154 Vista del Parque, RB). The cost is \$10 per player -- prizes will be awarded. Potluck style food, Bloody Marys, Mimosas and more. Call **Gloria Rezek (310-373-3221)** to sign up and select what food you'd like to bring.

Congratulations to Riviera Cake Fairies

Anna Spallino just reached the \$1,500 mark in her donations for Wheelchairs drive. Thank you, Anna, for sharing your two delicious cakes with us at our February meeting!

RGC was happy to donate \$120 to the Wheelchair cause. When you need a cake, don't forget to call Anna for either her coconut, chocolate or the new addition: lemon dream cake! \$30 will get you a free delivery with a smile (need 3 days notice) call Anna at **(310) 375-9234**.

For more information check out our website at www.rivieragardenclub.org or contact Gloria Balcom, Editor, at g.balcom@verizon.net or 310-378-5464

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