



# Sea Breeze

Costa Verde District, CGCI, Pacific Region, NGC

Riviera Garden Club

Volume 59, Issue #4

## From The Presidents

**Marilyn Rubin** and **Kathryn Joiner** hope you've stayed healthy this wet winter. We're both working to ensure that our RGC pre-Mothers' Day plant sale will have plenty of beautiful merchandise to sell. Do call **Phyllis De Crescenzo** to attend one or more of the succulent workshops held at her Torrance home. It's REALLY FUN to create succulent arrangements in charming containers with other club members! **Bertie and Wistar Wood** are graciously babysitting the

container arrangements until the April plant sale at their home. **Kathryn** escaped some of the recent Torrance rainstorms when she vacationed in Hawaii last month. **Marilyn** has been waiting for the rain to slow and the soil to moderately dry out so she can plant the easement hill behind her home with California native and Mediterranean water-wise plants. **Marilyn's** only grandchild **Seiji** (one of 20 grandchildren she expects, ha!) has taken his first steps at 11 months.

Gardeners, pull those obnoxious weeds the winter rains have encouraged before you plan your spring garden!

HAPPY GARDENING,  
FRIENDS!



Marilyn Rubin & Kathryn Joiner

## Member News & Tidbits

Welcome Riviera Garden Club New Member **Carolyn Bazak**

### Get Well Wishes for:

Eunice Hargrove's husband Richard who fell.

Bertie Wood's husband Wistar who also fell.

**Condolences** to Marie Hoffman on the death of her father.

*Members may want to send  
Get Well Wishes or  
Condolence Card*

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## Member Birthdays

### March

Cecilia Ceasar	1
Toni Sargent	20
Alberta Brice	26
Eunice Hargrove	28
Carole Lefevre	31



### April

Allison Jones	4
Pam Barrett-Hill	11
Betty Moyer	19
Phyllis Roth	27

## Calendar of Events

### Mar 1—Wednesday—10am

Costa Verde District Meeting  
 SC Botanic Garden. Fairy garden demonstration by **Marilyn Hafermatz** and **Margaret McKay**.

### Mar 28 - Tuesday - 9:30am

RGC General Meeting - Saving Seeds & Growing Food in Calif.  
 Presentation by **David King**

### Apr 8-9 - Saturday & Sunday

Cactus and Succulent Society Plant Sale .

### Apr 25 - Tuesday - 9am

RGC General Meeting & Bus Trip to Fullerton Arboretum

### Apr 29-30 - Saturday & Sunday

Plant sale in the backyard of **Bertie** and **Wistar Wood**. Coordinators are **Nan Clancy** and **Charlie Sappington**.

### May 23 - Tuesday

Diamond Jubilee breakfast at **Pat Heilmann's** home. Member garden tour follows. Send any delicious brunch recipes to **Pat Heilmann** for testing.



## Excursions

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Bus trip to **Fullerton Arboretum**, a sprawling, 26-acre green space featuring 4,000+ types of plants, walking trails and a museum. Meet at 9 am at Lago Seco Park at the southeast corner of the park at 238th and Ocean Avenue in Torrance. Return time is approximately 4 pm. Lunch included.

Lead Hostess: **Lilliam Kitagawa**

Co-Hostess: **Sharon Saffer**

Contact **Lynn Fernandez 310-729-973**



Fullerton Arboretum



## Poet's Corner by Charlie Sappington

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### Our Days

Oh! The rain! We love you!  
You make everything so bright and new.  
Now we look forward to sunny days,  
In ever so many ways.  
A few more showers may come our way,  
And those sunny days may delay.

Soon! Soon! Soon!  
Spring will be here with all its beauty,  
Oh! So dear!  
We plan for it in many ways,  
As we count the long wet days.

So... Ready your sun hat and your garden gloves,  
And wait a little longer for the days we love.  
Our shovel and our rake,  
Those we will not forsake.  
Love every day, rain or shine,  
For all of it is divine!

Sister of the Dirt,  
*Charlie Sappington*



# Riviera Garden Club—History Story Continues written by Kathryn Joiner

Let's take a quick look back at some Riviera Garden Club highlights of the 80's.

Riviera Garden Club and Hollywood Riviera Homeowners Association started monthly landscape awards in 1989.

Riviera Garden Club begins a campaign to save land for Madrona Marsh with **Gloria Jacobs** reporting. Madrona Marsh was dedicated in 1984.

Mayor Armstrong and the Torrance city council awarded Riviera Garden Club an All-American City plaque in recognition of their service to the community.

The Riviera Garden Club was well known for its **Valentine Bridge Luncheon** held every year at the South Coast Botanic Garden. Even though the club only had about 30 members in the 80s, each club member was expected to invite friends to the luncheon, so the final attendance was around 125 attendees. The event served as a fund raiser. Half the profits were donated to the garden.

Now let's look at a few member profiles from the 80's.

**Gloria Jacobs** (member from 1981 until she passed in 2016).

**Gloria** did just about everything someone involved in our garden club could do. She was honored in 2008 for her 27 years of involvement with Riviera Garden Club and the Costa Verde District where she was district director from 1987-1989. In a January 2008 interview, **Gloria** said "it is a pleasure to continue to support Riviera Garden Club and the younger women who have joined and lead the club today."

**Ethel Sellers** (member from 1980 until she passed in 2015). **Ethel** was co-president in 1990 and held different offices, but the landscape award chair was her favorite. In the earlier days of the Club, there were not as many activities and the group was smaller (about 40 members). The group concentrated more on flower arranging than gardens and the members had their own flower shows. Ethel said the Holiday get together was a sit-down dinner in a restaurant

including husbands and wives. Meetings were in the members' homes and refreshments came with printed recipes to be shared with other members.

**Virginia (Jean) Levanas** (member from 1985 until her death in 2011). Besides being involved in the Riviera Garden Club early on (holding many positions including president), **Jean** was also on the PTA Board and was a Torrance city library commissioner. **Jean's** favorite Riviera Garden Club job was raising the money necessary for landscaping projects for local parks and libraries.

*To Be Continued in the next issue of Sea Breeze.*

Interviews by **Karen Lent** in 2006-2008.

Research by **Geneva Martin** using excerpts from Riviera Garden Club Minutes 1980-1985



*A quick look at the 1980's*

## Henrietta Basin by Marilyn Rubin

**Henrietta Basin** is a fenced rainwater collection sump in West Torrance **located next to the West High School tennis courts on Henrietta Street.** That certainly doesn't seem very exciting! BUT..... one Saturday morning while yard "sale"ing, I was shocked to discover that the usually locked gate to this sump was open. I stopped my car to try to *sneak* in and just look. Gratefully, the sign on the gate said "open to visitors" so I legitimately walked into the area behind the fences and locked gates. What I saw was an incredibly beautiful natural habitat. There was a docent that morning at Henrietta Basin who explained that the area had formerly been a filthy storm water sump. He also explained that the Regional Water Quality Control Board of Los Angeles had in the previous decade awarded grants to Torrance and other South Bay cities for the construction of natural water treatment systems in their sumps. The purpose was to keep trash and dangerous bacteria out of the storm water that was flowing into Santa Monica Bay. The grant money was well spent! Henrietta basin now has screens over the storm water intake pipes to keep debris from entering the natural water basin while natural filtration systems and pumps have been



built to clean the water before it is discharged into the ocean. The result is a beautiful lake with native vegetation, birds, water fowl, small mammals and beneficial insects thriving inside an area with public trails and viewing areas.

During the dry months, Henrietta Basin is irrigated with recycled water contained in those famous purple pipes we see in Torrance. Enhancing this former bacteria and debris-laden sump has



now created a healthy habitat for native plants and wildlife; and it has allowed that open space to be used for human visitors as well.

Torrance was derogatorily known in the 1950's as the City of Sumps. There were over 17 sumps or rainwater collection basins or big holes dug by the first housing tract builders in Torrance to keep the growing city from flooding. Over the years Torrance sold many of these sumps to other agencies. Only five of the remaining original sumps located within Torrance city boundaries are still owned by Torrance. Henrietta Basin is one of these. **Henrietta Basin is only open on the Third Saturday morning each month from 9 to noon. It is staffed by volunteers from the Friends of Madrona Marsh.** Henrietta Basin and the nearby Entradero Basin on Towers Street are great places to enjoy the natural flora and fauna of Torrance by yourself, with friends or with grandchildren. **The Entradero Basin** is open to the public **EVERY DAY**, but the **Henrietta Basin** is **OPEN TO VISITORS ONLY** on these **Saturday mornings: March 18, April 15, May 20, June 17, July 15, August 19, September 16, October 21 November 18 and December 16, 2017.**

Come and be surprised by what you will see and experience in these enhanced storm water basins located on the west side of Torrance!

## Riviera Garden Club Fashion Show by Marilyn Rubin

Riviera Garden Club members and friends enjoyed the very last Fashion Show and luncheon that retail store Draper's and Damon's gave for customers the day after Valentine's Day. The D. and D. brick and mortar stores nation-wide will be closed but the company will continue to sell via catalog and internet.

**Charlie Sappington** arranged this final fashion show for us. Riviera Garden Club netted over \$700 that will be used for community outreach projects during our 60th Diamond Jubilee year.

The photo depicts left to right **Charlie's** daughter **Julia Farr**, **Charlie Sappington**, **Rosa Motano**, store manager and fashion show coordinator, **Charlie's** friend **Gloria Godet** and our own Riviera Garden Club member **Stell Leontsini**.



## Riviera Homeowners Association and Riviera Garden Club Monthly Landscape Awards

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These monthly landscape awards are given by a joint committee comprised of members of the Riviera Garden Club and the Riviera Homeowners Association. For more information visit:

[Hollywoodriviera.org/Riviera-landscapes/](http://Hollywoodriviera.org/Riviera-landscapes/)



*Feb. 2017—99 Calle Mayor  
The Guaglione Residence*



*Jan. 2017—The Probst Residence  
417 Avenida de Jose*



## Riviera Garden Club

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President@RivieraGardenClub.org

Do you have something to share  
for our next newsletter?

Email your articles to  
Marie@HoffmanMurphy.com

Articles must be submitted by  
April 15th.

We're on the Web  
[www.RivieraGardenClub.org](http://www.RivieraGardenClub.org)

## Classifieds: Garden Haves and Needs!

Do you have garden items you no longer need  
or want?

Send the information to the editor.

Members can contact each other directly.

