



Riviera Garden Club

Sea Breeze

COSTA VERDE DISTRICT, CGCI, PACIFIC REGION, NGC

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FROM OUR PRESIDENTS



Gloria Balcom and Linda Rosenfeld

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WELCOME BACK! A great start to our year, is always the Welcome Back Luncheon at the South Coast Botanic Garden. We so enjoy hearing about your wonderful summer break spent with family and good friends.

As we begin this year as Presidents this second time around, we hope to run with our training wheels off. Our theme this year is **"Seeds of Friendship Rooted in Community"**. We should all feel good about where we are as a club and the new friends made by being a member and by participating. This year we welcome 6 new members and one new honorary member to our roster.

Marie Hoffman has arranged two exciting bus trips this year. The first is November 13, 2018 to the Adamson House in Malibu. A tour and lunch at Rancho Los Alamitos in Long Beach on April 17, 2019 will be the second excursion.

It is always a challenge to find speakers and this year, **Mary Varieur** expertly handled arranging a good variety of presenters for your education and enjoyment.

- Eric Olsen of Smart Pots
- Nancy LeMargie of Seed to Plate, and
- Gudy Kimmel, Master Gardener and Costa Verde District Director

We received many compliments last year about our special event at **Mary & Joseph Retreat Center**. So as the saying goes if it works, do it again. (I made that up). We are again planning another special event in February. Since the location of Mary & Joseph Retreat is on the peninsula, it is very appropriate that we have **Brittany Goldsmith** of the Palos Verdes Conservancy Group as our speaker.

Along with your new board members, welcome back to another great year! Our combined goals this year are for you to enjoy all the activities planned, share in new and old friendships, learn something you might not know and lastly be proud that RGC is a leader in giving back to our community.
See you soon!

Gloria and Linda

MEMBER NEWS AND TIDBITS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY RGC FRIENDS!

September

2 Lynn Fernandez
5 Aleen Houston
19 Sharon Saffer
20 Laurie Vaillant
21 Cynthia Lundin
24 George Unrine
26 Kathryn Joiner
29 Connie Moseley

October

5 June Young
8 Kay Kanuit
14 Beebe Moorhead
15 Stella Leontsini
17 Gene Hassan
19 Mary Eninger
20 Mary Alessandra-Cook
28 Sheila Kutkus

GET WELL WISHES TO:

Judy Unrine is still recovering from surgery and chemotherapy. We MISS you, Judy!

Dina Wiley is recovering from breaking two bones when she fell at an airport. Dina was at the Welcome Back Potluck and no longer needs a wheel chair or walker! Hurrah!

GIFTING Gloria Balcom and Linda Rosenfeld

Tell Us What You Think!

How important is Community Outreach/Gifting to you?

At our October meeting at the Torrance Airport, you will be asked to take a brief, but very important, survey on the importance of gifting to you.

Traditionally, RGC has contributed significantly to our community through scholarships, youth projects at schools, libraries and parks, as well as partnering with organizations like South Coast Botanic Gardens, Seed to Plate, and much more.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Oct. 16 Tuesday **RGC board** home of Charlie Sappington 310-991-2687 9:30

Oct. 23 Tuesday **RGC General meeting** Torrance Airport 9:30 a.m.

Nov. 6 Tuesday **RGC board** home of Mary Varieur 310-375-5037 9:30 a.m.

Nov. 13 Tuesday **RGC Bus Excursion** Adamson House, Malibu Contact Marie Hoffman 310-938-8493 or 310-939-9393 for reservations \$35

Our 2012 Historical Home Tour netted \$32,000 and took our Gifting to a new level. While RGC Gifting/Outreach from 2014–2019 will total over **\$58,000**, our savings are being reduced each year.

This is a pivotal year. We budgeted \$9,500 for Gifting. But fundraising and donations from 2017-2018 totaled only \$5,800. We are faced with a BIG decision: **Do we increase Fundraising now or reduce future Gifting?** Please take 5 minutes at our October meeting to fill out this important survey so that we know what is most important to you – and how we can count on your support to help organize or attend a fundraiser.

WELCOME NEW RGC MEMBERS

These ladies are now listed in the 2018-19 RGC booklet

Marlene Ennis, Cynthia Lundin, Susan Schneider, Terri Grijalva, Mary Alessandra-Cook, Wendy Eddy

LANDSCAPE AWARDS

Riviera Homeowners Association and Riviera Garden Club



James & Nancy Miller, owners July Aug. 2018
521 Paseo de la Playa Redondo Beach

The Millers are long-time Riviera residents. Over the years they have won landscape awards 3 times. Their first award was at their previous Riviera home. Now the Miller garden includes sculpture and many interesting drought-tolerant plants with varied textures and colors. Do drive by!



Kurt Ramirez, owner Sept. October 2018
5020 Pacific Coast Highway Torrance

Kurt graciously showed the committee his "backyard Jungle", although the landscape award is based on his front yard landscaping. Kurt planted his garden himself with some help from his brother using plants purchased at nurseries from Fontana to San Diego.



CHILDREN'S GARDEN PLAN

Danielle Brown, Development Officer of the **South Coast Botanic Garden, (SCBG)** gave a talk and slide show about the proposed **Children's Garden** to the members of the RGC at the September 25 Welcome Back Potluck. Danielle explained how successfully rebuilding the new Rose Garden last year helped the creators of the future Children's Garden to foresee any potential needs in completing that new children's project.

A brief history of the Botanic Garden: The SCBG was built on an old diatomaceous earth mine. By 1956 production of the mine declined and the site was sold to the County of Los Angeles. From the very beginning, L.A. County planned to utilize their best technological ideas to reclaim the land for future use. However, until that happened, the site was used as a sanitary landfill or *garbage dump* to help meet the county's growing landfill needs. In 1961, private citizens, headed by **Frances Young**, successfully prevailed upon the County Board of Supervisors to convert this site into a botanic garden. As the garbage underneath those 10 feet of soil atop the landfill decomposed, the area underneath became extremely **HOT** and the land buckled unevenly while toxic methane gas was created. No permanent structures or utilities could initially be installed over the composting garbage. Experiments were undertaken to determine which trees or shrubs could survive with such a hostile environment 10 feet beneath their roots. Now over 57 years later major expansion is planned for the South Coast Botanic Garden. **Danielle Brown** explained that the Children's Garden will be completed in 3-5 years **IF** the SCBG Foundation can raise the needed 7 million dollars. Children and interested adults were asked what characteristics this proposed children's garden should have. Respondents indicated that the garden should be FUN, have areas for active unstructured play, and be **MAGICAL**. Requirements listed by some were that the garden should also be EDUCATIONAL, a PLACE TO TOUCH NATURE, and that the garden should be SAFE with ample SHADE throughout. There should be places for kids to get dirty if they

wish and there should be places to have **birthday parties** as well as space for **school groups** to enjoy short programs.

Danielle showed us "napkin drawings" and architectural sketches of future features in the planned 3 ½ acre garden. We saw the **sunflower maze** utilizing sunflowers and children to create a human sundial to calculate the time. We saw huge **entrance pillars** that showed the cores of the diverse earth beneath the Botanic Garden. We saw photos of joyful children playing on a future **grassy slope** where they could either roll down or run in the grass. Danielle indicated there will be a "**pollinator pathway**" with plants and fruit trees that would attract birds, bees and butterflies at one of the two entrances to the garden. There would be a **fossil dig** space as well as an **edible garden** where children can be actively involved **digging, planting or harvesting**. This children's garden will be designed so that ALL children will be able to enjoy it, not just those who are ambulatory. As Danielle Brown explained to us, visitors will "feel the sense of adventure" when they enter the children's garden. "It will be a place like no other!" This author believes RGC and local community members are excitedly anticipating the opening of this wonderful children's garden. The children in our families will surely enjoy unique adventures and learning experiences when this "**magical**" garden is completed inside the SCBG!

By Marilyn Rubin

PHOTOS TAKEN 9/25/18 SCBG



Betty Moye with friend



Carole Lefevre **Lola Ungar**

**MORE PHOTOS OF THE RGC
POTLUCK/MEETING 9/25/18**



Pat Heilmann



Marybeth Muir



**Regina Taylor
Nancy Weaver**



Wendy Tsuji Geeta Gupta



**Alison Jones
Cynthia Lundin**



Dina Wiley



Sharon Saffer



NEW rose garden



Audra Platz, Director of Development of the SCBG Foundation. She directed the Rose Garden tour.



**Charlie Sappington
Geneva Martin**



Ellyn Meikle

Sea Breeze Editor Marilyn Rubin

Riviera Garden Club

Check out our website at



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