



Riviera Garden Club

Sea Breeze

COSTA VERDE DISTRICT, CGCI, PACIFIC REGION, NGC

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FROM OUR PRESIDENTS



Gloria Balcom and Linda Rosenfeld

Riviera Garden Club has definitely been 'in motion' since our last issue of Sea Breeze. Our fashion show at Talbots was a great success! Many of us were inspired by stylist Fabian and the fashionable RGC models to supplement our personal wardrobes. We earned \$680 for future Civic Outreach projects.

At our March meeting hostesses **Eunice Hargrove, Alberta Brice and Claudeene Lyon** treated us to a beautiful and tasty array of food. Certified Arborist Louie Gamino provided new insights and valuable advice on the trees that make our neighborhoods so livable.

April was ramped into high gear with a successful Garden Sale on the 7th. Lucky for us **Charlie Sappington** never says never; and her front yard was a perfect backdrop for the terrific cross-section of plants and garden items supplied by our members. The Garden Sale was successful because everyone worked hard. We grossed \$2,208. THANK YOU for your effort!

On April 22, RGC was proud to sponsor the Wonderland Tea Party for the South Coast Botanic Garden Kids Club. The action started in the newly-opened Rose Garden, then continued throughout a series of Adventure Stations. What can be better than seeing so many children having fun enjoying nature!

We rounded out April with an excursion to the magnificent Huntington Library & Gardens where we all enjoyed docent led walking tours of the Chinese Garden. Later members explored the Huntington on their own. **Marie Hoffman**, THANK YOU for coordinating this trip!

The RGC fun isn't over yet! There is one more regular airport meeting on May 22 with dynamic speaker Lili Sanger. With the RGC year looming to an end, our Mad Hatter luncheon/installation will be June 5 at the Cheesecake Factory. Sign up with Pam Barrett-Hill. Remember to wear your hat decorated with materials or flowers that are either living or were once living! See the **Calendar of Events** below for more info.

Linda and Gloria

WELCOME NEW RGC MEMBERS!

Cynthia Lundin

Peggy Peck

CONTENTS

FROM OUR PRESIDENTS	1
WELCOME NEW MEMBERS	1
MEMBER NEWS AND TIDBITS	1
CALENDAR OF EVENTS	2
LANDSCAPE AWARD	2
COMPOSTING WITH A TUMBLER	3
COMMUNITY OUTREACH.....	3
PHOTOS OF PAST RGC EVENTS	4-5
RGC SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS.....	5

MEMBER NEWS AND TIDBITS

GET WELL WISHES TO:

Sheila Kutkus and **Judy Unrine**

CONDOLENCES TO:

Laurie Vaillant who lost her beloved husband, **Sam Sweeney** in March.

Pati Johnson, whose husband **Nils Johnson**, died suddenly Monday April 28.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY RGC FRIENDS!

MAY

2 Cavin Shorter
4 Marjorie Mckarns
4 Irma Chiota
11 Marybeth Muir
24 Terri Grijalva
25 Toni Ziegler
26 Tecki Poletti

JUNE

8 Judy Unrine
9 Nancy Weaver
12 Regina Taylor
18 Pat Heilmann
23 Sandra London
28 Leony Filler
28 June Stevenson

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May 15 Tuesday **RGC board** home of Tecki Poletti 310-327-0243 9:30 a.m.

May 22 Tuesday **RGC general meeting**
Torrance Airport- hummingbirds and native plants by Lili Sanger 9:30 a.m.

June 2 Sat. 10-2 City Yard Open House
Environmental Expo. **RGC has a booth.**

June 5 Tuesday **Mad Hatter Luncheon** and officer installation at Cheesecake Factory \$40 11:30 a.m. Contact Pam Barrett-Hill 310-548-3926 for reservation.

June 13 Wednesday **Costa Verde District meeting and potluck** SCBG \$5

LANDSCAPE AWARD March April 2018

Riviera Homeowners Association and Riviera Garden Club



Gary and Noriko Kussman, owners
300 Calle Mayor Redondo Beach

The landscape design and installation was done by Dave Cameron of Absolute Custom Landscape. Groupings of drought tolerant plantings work beautifully with the large corner lot and multi-level areas.



USING A COMPOST TUMBLER

By **Marilyn Rubin**

I have been composting for more than 30 years. Recently a rat persisted in chewing holes through my black plastic compost bins. After much research and various attempts to resolve the problem, I decided to switch to a rodent-proof compost tumbler, the **Jora JK 270**. I AM THRILLED WITH MY NEW COMPOST TUMBLER! Although my new compost tumbler was *expensive*, I LOVE its design and I LOVE how easy it is to load and unload; and to rotate. No more pitch fork! No more waiting months for rich compost to amend my vegetable garden soil! My new Jora tumbler has 2 separate chambers with large openings. I can add organic materials to one side of the compartment, while allowing the leaves and vegetable scraps on the other side to mature. In my kitchen I have a sink-top cutting board with a large hole in it. Underneath that hole I keep a gallon bucket to collect compostable scraps. NO SMELL! Because my new compost tumbler is fully insulated and completely sealed, it heats up *amazingly* fast to create compost in record time. The brochure says two weeks NOT the months it takes in a traditional bin.

Why should people compost? When you reuse and recycle your own organic waste, landfill sites do not fill up as quickly. Composting is a natural process, so you do not use any fossil fuels or other forms of energy to create it. Furthermore, once the compost is ready, you can use it to enhance your soil and fertilize your ornamental and edible plants.



Dual chambers with 2 latched openings. Easy to fill, rotate and unload. Thick Insulation keeps it hot. Rodent-proof! Fast production of compost! Come to

Marilyn's yard to see this compost tumbler! No, I am not getting a commission! I JUST LOVE IT!

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

By **Gloria Balcom**

Our Riviera Garden Club "Gifting Elves" continue to give back to our community.

During April, **Linda** and **Gloria** delivered a RGC check for \$1,500 to Victor Elem. School principal **Mike Baker**. Three remarkable teachers **Tim Magnus, April Pages** and **Jeff Jennewein** will be using this money to establish a new student-cultivated garden. These dynamic teachers are inspiring their students to excel in gardening and ecology. As a result, Victor Elementary has just been named a finalist in the Grades of Green's Free Lunch Challenge for significantly reducing lunch time trash by converting it into compost.

New member, **Cynthia Lundin** worked with **Gloria** and **Linda** to re-plant our PTN (Pediatric Therapy Network) sensory garden with a wonderful array of herbs and edibles.

To recap our earlier donations for this year: **South Coast Botanic Garden** \$2,000; **Seed to Plate** \$1,000; **El Retiro Youth Library** \$500; **TreePeople** \$500; and \$1000 **scholarships** to each of the three students featured in the page 5 article.

PHOTOS OF PAST RGC EVENTS



RGC models Talbots Fashion Show



RGC audience Talbots Fashion Show



Laurie Vaillant, Elyn Meikle Garden Sale



Gloria Balcom, Linda Rosenfeld Garden Sale



Cynthia Lundin and Gloria Balcom at Pediatric Therapy Network sensory garden



Geeta Gupta enjoying the Chinese Garden at the Huntington Library



One of the docent led groups



Huntington Library Chinese Garden



Emily Lacina matches the roses in the Huntington Rose garden

RGC SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Jillian Glickman, a senior at **North High Torrance**, has applied to attend a University of California this fall. She will major in environmental science. Jillian writes, “After receiving my four-year degree, I plan on working for a large company to promote environmental sustainability.” Jillian has volunteered many hours to reestablishing a habitat in Palos Verdes to restore the population of the endangered Palos Verdes Blue butterfly. Jillian explained, “It has been instilled within me to always ensure that my ideals correspond with my actions, and my volunteer work allows me to do just that.”

Cole Rossi, a **South High** senior, plans to attend a four-year University IF he receives enough federal and scholarship aid. Cole writes, “I plan on attending a four-year university, majoring in environmental studies with an emphasis on policy analysis. I plan on going to law school and become an environmental lawyer.” Cole has volunteered at Torrance Memorial Hospital

and Habitat for Humanity as well as being the chairperson for his high school canned food drive. Cole says, “I found that I am most happy when helping others.”

Zoe Meffan, an **El Camino College** student, grew up in Rough and Ready, California. This very tiny (less than 1000 residents) historic gold mining town is near Grass Valley, about 62 miles from Sacramento. Zoe left Rough and Ready to attend **El Camino College** in 2015. **ECC** is the beginning of her educational goals to graduate with a microbiology degree. Zoe works full-time at Armstrong Garden Center to pay for college and living expenses. She writes, “I want to focus my major toward studying and populating plants in their native environment ... as well as the animal species they co-exist with.” After graduation Zoe wants to go into conservation to help protect the native plant and animal species in the world.

RGC members,

After reading about our scholarship recipients above, you can see that each will make a positive contribution to our world in the future. RGC MADE GOOD CHOICES FOR SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS!

Sea Breeze Editor Marilyn Rubin

Riviera Garden Club

Check out our website at
www.rivieragardenclub.org



Email to:

president@rivieragardenclub.org