

Riviera Garden Club



Presidents' Message

Another Great Year Ahead—Welcome back!

As usual, the Executive Board has been busy this summer planning the 2012/13 calendar year and we are very excited about another year of great programs thanks to First Vice President **Marilyn Rubin**. Our new Board of Directors includes a good group of hard-working volunteers, with everyone's participation; we can look forward to a fun and successful year. We all thank **Karen** and **Shelley** for their hard work and hope to build on their accomplishments.

We have set up a committee to consider what expenses should be in the yearly operating budget and from where the additional operating expenses over dues should be covered. Then a further committee can work on the donation of funds. Come to the first General Meeting and Potluck on September 25 at St Luke's Presbyterian Church to pick up your yearbook, hear our goals for the year, vote on the budget and learn from our "Bridges to the Community" Lecturer Series program.

Happy gardening,
Nancy and Geneva

Welcome Back, Potluck!

It's time to break out the recipes and get that special dish ready for our fourth annual first-meeting potluck event—Tuesday, September 25th at 9:30 a.m. Again this year we will meet at St. Luke's Presbyterian Church on their lovely, shady lawn.

Bring a potluck dish to share; we will have drive-up/drop-off service at the garden side of the church when you arrive. You will want to first drop off your dish, where runners will be on hand to take it directly to the kitchen; then proceed to park in the lot. There is limited refrigerator space, and we will not be able to reheat any dish.

This is one meeting no one wants to miss! Our featured guest speaker will be RGC member **Tecki Poletti** who will demonstrate how to make long-living and beautiful succulent wreaths.

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Since 2009 the Riviera Garden Club has held their initial meeting with a potluck luncheon! What a great tradition!

Join the Parade!!

As the City of Torrance's year-long Centennial comes to a close, the Riviera Garden Club will be there to help celebrate!

Join us on Sunday, September 16th for a real Hometown Parade! Registration begins at 10:30 a.m., followed by staging at 11:00 a.m. on Post Ave. just south of Cravens. The parade will commence at Noon, and end at El Prado Park. The dedication of the Time Capsule and Centennial Plaza begins at 2:00. **Bring a friend!**



If you want to wear an RGC T-shirt, you need to contact **Dina Wiley (310-378-4138)** to order it (by 4:00 p.m., Wed., September 5th). Depending on how many we order, your cost may be as little as **\$15.71**, \$18.49, or \$21.26 (incl. tax). Delivery takes about one week. The T-shirts are white, V-neck, short sleeve, in both women's and men's styles, with the RGC logo front and back. Black is also available, but the logo is not as visible.

For more information on the parade, go to the Torrance website: www.torrancecentennial.org/events/.

Come along and join in the fun with RGC parade coordinators **Pam Barrett**, **Karen Lent**, and **Dina Wiley** to make this a memorable Centennial finale! Carpooling is encouraged—See you there!

Potluck Meeting, cont. from Page 1

But wait . . . there’s more! **Mayor Frank Scotto** will also speak on “Going **Green** in Torrance.” Following the speakers will be the long-awaited potluck luncheon . . . always a winner!

DIRECTIONS TO ST. LUKE’S CHURCH:

26825 Rolling Hills Road, Rolling Hills Estates, 90274 The church is at the north edge of the South Coast Botanic Gardens, between Crenshaw & Palos Verdes Drive NORTH. If coming from Crenshaw, drive *past* the church parking lot into the drop-off area beyond the main entrance to the church. Then you will turn LEFT, back onto Rolling Hills Road and make another LEFT turn beyond the church into the parking lot. St. Luke’s phone number is **(310) 377-2825**, in the event you need assistance.

*Don’t grumble that roses have thorns,
be thankful that thorns have roses.*

Kudos to the Club! 2011-2012 Awards!
NGC Certificate of Merit for our 55th Anniversary
NGC Certificate of Merit for Increasing Membership
NGC—Pacific Region 1st Place Award: Club Yearbook
NGC—Pacific Region Award of Merit
CGC 1st Place Penny Pines for the Most Plantations
CGC 1st Place: Club Yearbook Award for highest pts.
CGC Blue Ribbon Certificate of Achievement

Garden Spotlight featuring the garden of Ruth Vogel

By Karen Lent & Dina Wiley

Large boulders, decorative pots and railroad ties provide an inviting entrance and steps up to **Ruth and Nat Vogel’s** front garden. Varied textures, plant varieties and strong colors add a bold visual punch. Enormous Sunburst *Echeveria* and Nodding Pincushion are eye-catching focal points. Graceful *Melaleuca* trees shade the front slope, set off by *Protea*, Canary Island Sage, and black succulents.

RGC’s **Ruth Vogel** is a lifetime gardener. Her love of gardening plus years of classes on landscape design and the study of drought-tolerant and native plants make Ruth an enthusiastic expert.

The Vogels’ back garden boasts a meadow, complete with a fountain and stream, laced by *Dymondia*. Carved into a corner is a “serene room,” featuring a birdbath and statuary, flanked by the delicate pink blossoms of Guara and a leafy burgundy *Euphorbia* tree. Tall grasses, salvia and flax abound; stairs lead you to the graded slope sporting California Lilac, and native shade trees. Her garden is joy to experience—thank you, Ruth, for allowing us to take a peek!



Photo by Karen Lent

Welcome, New Members!

Something special is happening on Tuesday, September 11th. All new members who have been inducted since April, 2011, will be honored by the Board with a special New Member Tea at the home of **Marilyn Rubin**.

At this time, Co-Third Vice Presidents **Marybeth Muir** and **Allison Jones** will review with new members the events of the coming year. When at upcoming meetings, be sure to look

for the “New Member Badge” and welcome all of our recent 2011 and 2012 members:

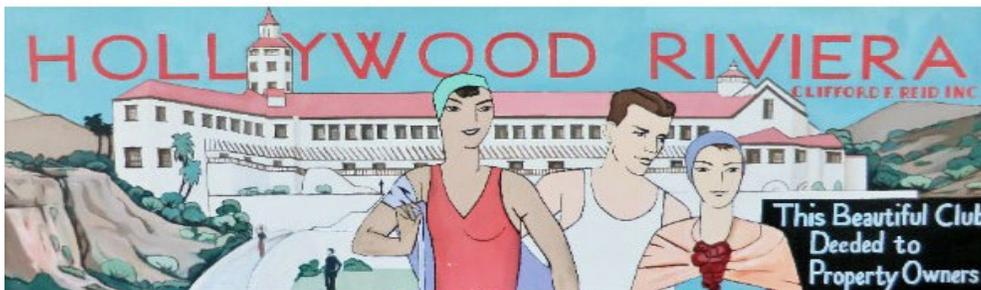
- Bill Blischke**
- Jan Charlin**
- Nan Clancy**
- Mary Eninger**
- Leony Filler**
- Michelle Friedman**
- Pat Heilmann**
- Linda LoConte**
- Marjorie McKarns**
- Donna Monette**
- Colleen O’Neill**



Hollywood Riviera Historic Home Tour A Hit!

AMAZING! Almost all members of the Garden Club gave their time and effort to make our first Home Tour a great success! Our net revenue from donations, ticket sales, sponsorships, as well as video and program donations totaled over \$36,000. WOW! Many wonderful comments from patrons have been reported. Thanks to all who made this happen! Great job, HHT Committee! **Photos on the next two pages . . .**

Riviera Historic Homes Tour



June 1 & 2, 2012



Riviera Garden Club



Recent Landscape Awards



April 2012—The Kenneth Residence—148 Vista del Parque
A wooden gate, palms, and a privacy wall preview a Mediterranean landscape, offering a glimpse of paradise.

Feb 2012—The Miller Residence—517 Paseo de la Playa
This lovely succulent garden foretells the backyard delight—a succulent garden terraced down to the ocean.



Compliance Corner By George Unrine

Riviera Garden Club, A California Public Benefit Corporation

Doesn't that have a nice ring to it? But besides sounding nice, why did we think incorporation was worth the effort and money? Two reasons: 1) Since 2006, non-profit associations (our status for fifty-five years) have increasingly had to follow many of the same regulations that corporations do and 2) we did not receive the limited liability protection that

corporations enjoy. That means our officers, in particular, and our members in general could be held personally liable for damages arising from club activities. Our general liability insurance through CGCI mitigates that risk but doesn't eliminate it. That is now no longer the case.

As a corporation, we can also purchase Directors and Officers liability insurance.

This protects the members who serve as our leaders from lawsuits alleging that they have failed to properly perform their duties. We did not want personal liability to deter members from volunteering to serve as Directors or Officers.

This is the first of what will be a regular column in *The Sea Breeze*. Look for more articles on this topic in the coming months.

The Historic Homes of the Hollywood Riviera

Photos by Karen Lent



Reid-Rice Home (Hospitality House)



Smith-Odom Home



Marlow-Block Home



Ellinwood-Vargas Home



Stewart-Walecki Home



Oden-Martis Home



Argenbright-Broeg Home



Dina & Karen—a couple of very weary co-chairs



Jeannie Brown, Hospitality Chair, and Gene Hassan are ready for hungry patrons



Judy Unrine welcomes plant questions at the Hospitality House



Cavin Shorter helps set up a floral arranging demonstration



Alberta Brice greets guests at the Odom House



Geneva and Toni Sargent sell tickets



Keith Lent and Marilyn Rubin serve cooling refreshments



Claudeene & Ron Lyon admire the 1929 Packard Dietrich



Karen Lent shows Long Beach Garden Club president Kitty Guzman the Bobby Lane rendering of the Beach Club Poster



Logistics Chair Nancy Weaver is ready to welcome our guests

Riviera Garden Club

Sea Breeze



Sea Breeze is a bi-monthly publication for the members of the Riviera Garden Club, Inc., a non-profit, philanthropic organization of the South Bay.

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A Sunshine Bouquet for

Edith Dees, who is in rehab after a fall, which fractured her pelvis.

Jeannie Brown, whose son-in-law died unexpectedly in June.

Margery Phillips, honorary member, who is recuperating from a recent illness



Along the Garden Path

Former Member, **DeLaine Anthony**, sends greetings from Colorado. Her new email is DeLaineAnthony@gmail.com.

In Memoriam — Jean Winter, an 11-year member of the Riviera Garden Club, passed away June, 2012. Our sincerest condolences to Jean’s family. She will be missed!

Calendar of Events

- Sept 11 10:30 New Member Tea at Marilyn Rubin’s
- Sept 16 11:00 Torrance Centennial Parade
- Sept 18 9:30 Board Meeting at Charlie Sappington’s
- Sept 25 9:30 Member Meeting at St. Luke’s Church
- Oct 3 9:30 CVD meeting at So. Coast Botanic Gardens
- Oct 16 9–4 CVD Flower Show at S. C. Botanic Gardens
- Oct 16 9:30 Board Meeting at Toni Ziegler’s
- Oct 23 9:30 Member Meeting at Madrona Marsh
 Hostesses: **Judy & George Unrine**, **Lynn Stern**, **Gene Hassan**
- Nov 20 9:30 Board Meeting at Geneva Martin’s
- Nov 27 9:30 Member Meeting at Madonna Marsh
 Hostesses: **Sheila Kutkus**, **Rita Wagstaff**, **Marilyn Barker**
- Dec 2 11:30 Holiday Party at Blue Water Grill

HAPPY, HAPPY
 BIRTHDAY!



- August:
 - 10 — Jan Charlin
 - 14 — Emily Lacina
 - 31 — Marnie Inman
- September:
 - 1 — Hazel Mulqueen
 - 2 — Lynn Fernandez
 - 5 — Aleen Houston
 - 8 — Gina Bush
 - 19 — Sharon Saffer
 - 20 — Laurie Vaillant
 - 24 — George Unrine
 - 26 — Kathryn Joiner