

Riviera Garden Club



Presidents' Message

Happy New Year!

We hope everyone had a good holiday!

Pam Barrett and **Jim Hill** yet again produced an outstanding Holiday Party last month! See Page 2 for a photo recap.

Thanks to everyone who contributed gifts to the Salvation Army "Angels" and men's clothing for Harbor-UCLA Medical Center patients. **Jan Charlin, Allison Jones and Geneva Martin** delivered your donations on December 12th, receiving much appreciation from the hospital staff. **Toni Sargent** made sure all your toys and gifts brought smiles to the Salvation Army's *Little Angels*.

Calling all scribes! We need your help taking minutes at two board and member meetings. Please let us know if you can give Toni Ziegler a hand! Also, the Nominating Committee needs people to fill officer positions for 2013-14. As you know, we can't do this without **you!**

Geneva Martin & Nancy Weaver

January 22 Meeting

We're kicking off the new year with orchids! You won't want to miss this meeting featuring George Hatfield of *Hatfield Orchids*. As an orchid judge for the CSA and AOS, he has extensive experience to share with us. Since he specializes in Cymbidium Orchids and award winning plants, this is the time to find out more about the care and nurturing of your orchids. Brought to you by **Marilyn Rubin** via an ardent referral by **Bobbie Davison**, a slide show, lecture, and Q&A await you!

Penny Pines, Please!

New Years' clean-out? Don't toss your stuff—donate it to Penny Pines! Whether new or gently used, bring items to **Charlie Sappington's** home about a week prior to the meeting, which gives her time to price and tag them. Remember, you can also bring plant seedlings, too!

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2012-2013 Officers

Co-Presidents: **Geneva Martin** and **Nancy Weaver**

1st VPs: **Marilyn Rubin** and **Carole Lefevre**

2nd VP: **Gay Hargrave**

3rd VPs: **Allison Jones** and **Marybeth Muir**

Secretary: **Toni Ziegler**

Treasurer: **Wendy Tsuji**

Parliamentarian: **Toni Sargent**

Board Advisor: **Karen Lent**

Board Meeting January 15

This month's board meeting will be held at **Marybeth Muir's** home. A busy agenda will bring us up to date on the status of our many projects led by officers and committee chairs, including finance, scholarships, civic beautification, community outreach, etc.

Directions to Marybeth's home at 1652 Espinosa Cir, PVE 90274: From PV Bl, go north to PV Dr. West, turn **R**, go 2 mi. to a 4-way stop at Via Coronel, turn **L** to the next stop sign, where you will see a sign pointing to Espinosa Cir. on the **L**. Go 200 ft. to Espinosa Cir, turn **R** to 1652 Espinosa Circle. **ALT:** If coming from Hawthorne Bl., take PV Dr. No., turn **R**, to PV Dr. West. Follow the directions above from that point.

Excursion to Enviroscape

Tuesday, **January 15**, 2:30

You heard Mike Garcia at our October meeting talk about his environmental landscapes—now you get to actually see one! Mr. Garcia has graciously invited us to his home to see what can be done to stay environmentally friendly and still have beautiful landscaping. Following the Jan. 15 Board Meeting, we will meet at his home in North Redondo. Whether you drive on your own or car-pool, please plan to arrive no later than 2:30. His home is located at 2609 Vargas Way, Redondo Beach 90278. Please visit his website: www.EnviroscapeLA.com.

Holiday Luncheon Recap

If you were able to attend the Holiday Luncheon at the Blue Water Grill on December 2, you know what a fantastic event that was. **Pam Barrett** and **Jim Hill** (disguised as Mr. & Mrs. Claus) orchestrated hours of fun, food, and festivities. Entertainment was again provided by **Cali Rose**, singer, musician, and engaging humorist. She was such an entertaining performer, no wonder Pam brought her back another year!



Cali Rose



Cali Rose dupes George Unrine (Left), Dave Sargent, Pete Barker and Santa Claus (Jim Hill) into facilitating a sing-along



Jim Hill & Pam Barrett as Mr. & Mrs. Claus

This just in . . .

During the holidays, **Marilyn and Sherwin Rubin** were busy acquiring donations for the Riviera Garden Club. They reached out to the Hollywood Riviera real estate agents and received donations for 27 of Sherwin's *History of the Hollywood Riviera* DVDs that he created for the Historical Home Tour and the Torrance Centennial. A total of approximately 250 DVDs have been given to donors, bringing in approximately \$3,700 for the Club. Many, many thanks to **Sherwin and Marilyn!**

February 26 Meeting

Our featured speaker February 26th will be **Sue Kirby**, who encourages, enlightens, and entertains people to be star performers at work, in volunteer organizations, and in life. Her program, *Stars out of Sparks*, is packed with wisdom and tips to empower people to be more successful. Her exceptional gift of storytelling has audiences laughing in the aisles, glowing with pride and renewed energy to be star performers. Sue's message is simple . . . "People learn when they are laughing."



Sue Kirby

Welcome to Our Newest Member! **Linda Rosenfeld** joined us December, 2012



Compliance Corner Rules for Raffles

By George Unrine



Raffles are a way for a non-profit to raise money for its organization and only non-profit organizations (incorporated or not) are allowed to hold them. The primary benefit of a raffle vs. a straight sale or an auction is that the gross proceeds are not subject to sales tax. The state allows non-profits to hold raffles because the proceeds will not directly benefit any individual in the

organization but can help the organization fulfill its public benefit goals. That said, the state has at least two concerns about raffles. First, raffles should not be used as a roundabout way of funneling organizational assets to an individual. To help avoid this possibility, the state requires that 90% of the gross proceeds go for charitable purposes, meaning the organiza-

tion cannot spend more than 10% of the gross proceeds acquiring the prizes or holding the raffle. Any additional resources to acquire the prizes or hold the raffle must be donations that do not go through the organization's checking account. Examples would be goods or services donated by members or businesses but not
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Outstanding Landscape Awards

The Riviera Garden Club, in conjunction with the Riviera Homeowners' Association, proudly congratulates these Riviera homeowners, with appreciation for beautifully enhancing our area and community.

"No occupation is so delightful to me as the culture of the earth, and no culture comparable to that of the garden." — Thomas Jefferson



Jan. 2013—The Johnson/Ha Residence—437 Via el Chico. Decorative stone and gravel frame the sculpture garden of this beautifully remodeled home, graced by a prospering palm.



Nov. 2012—The Fitzpatrick Residence—459 Castellana. A variety of roses, a colorful brick walkway, and a white picket fence add country charm to this beautiful home.



Oct. 2012—The Paulsen Residence—140 Via los Miradores. Fescue, kangaroo paw, dymondia, flax and mondo grass complement larger tropical plants in the courtyard.

Compliance Corner, cont.

monetary donations to the organization. Note that nothing prohibits the value of the donations from exceeding the gross proceeds — that often happens. Obviously, 50/50 raffles, though very common, are not allowed.

Second, raffles should not be a way of avoiding the tax on alcoholic beverages. Thus, bottles of wine, also very common, are not allowed in prize baskets.

The State Attorney General is charged with ensuring that these two goals are met. All non-profit, public benefit organizations (that's us) are required to register with the Attorney General as a charitable trust (more on that in another article). We have done so. Then, before holding a raffle, organizations must file a report with the Attorney General describing the raffle. Fortunately, several raffles can be included in one report. After each raffle is held, the results must be reported

to the Attorney General. The primary reason we have not been holding Penny Pines raffles is that we are waiting for our 501(c)(3) determination letter from the IRS (any day now) to clarify our status. After that happens, the Board of Directors may then decide to again hold raffles as a means of fundraising.

And one last thought. A door prize drawing, where everyone is given a ticket to determine who gets the prize(s) is not considered a raffle.

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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As the Garden grows, so grows the Gardener

Calendar of Events

- Jan 15 9:30 Board Meeting at **Marybeth Muir's** home
- Jan 15 2:30 Outing to Enviroscape (**Mike Garcia's** home)
- Jan. 22 9:30 Member Meeting at the Airport
Hostesses: Eunice Hargrove, Kathryn Joiner, Nan Clancy
- Feb 13 9:30 CVD General Meeting at South Coast Botanic Garden
- Feb 19 9:30 Board Meeting at **Carole Lefevre's** home
- Feb 26 9:30 Member Meeting at the Airport
Hostesses: Mary Varieur, Tecki Poletti, Michelle Sagolla
- Mar 7-9 10-4 **Designs for Dining** St. Francis Church, P.V.
- Mar 12 9:30-4 Bus Tour: LA Zoo & Botanical Gardens
- Mar 19 9:30 Board Meeting at **Nancy Weaver's** home
- Mar 26 9:30 Member Meeting at the Airport
Hostesses: Laurie Vaillant, Jeannie Brown, Linda LoConte
- Apr 16 9:30 Board Meeting at **Gay Hargrave's** home
- Apr 23 9:30 Member Meeting at the Airport
Hostesses: Lynn Fernandez, Wendy Tsuji, Pam Barrett
- May 21 9:30 Board Meeting at **Marilyn Rubin's** home
- May 28 9:30-4:30 Bus Tour to Environmental Nature Center & Sherman Gardens
- Jun 11 11:00 Officer Installation & Madhatter's Luncheon



Along the Garden Path

The Costa Verde District will hold its general meeting on Wednesday, February 13, at the South Coast Botanic Garden. Social brunch: 9:30; business meeting: 10; program 11. Fee \$2.00.

The featured speaker will be Tina Chang, owner of *Itty Bitty Fairy Gardens* in Mission Viejo. She will demonstrate the creation of a fairy miniature garden, which are tiny gardens with miniature accessories. She will bring accessories and other miniature gardens for inspiration. Also, a fairy garden will be donated by Tina.

Happy Birthday, Members!



January

- 2 Jean Vasquez
- 7 Linda Rosenfeld
- 8 Jeannie Brown
- 15 Don O'Donal
- 22 Michelle Friedman
- 23 Mary Varieur
- 26 Bertie Wood

February

- 2 Anne Jensen
- 8 Jacquie Lawlor
- 15 Glyndis Dean
- 22 Rita Wagstaff
- 23 Gay Hargrave
- 26 Dina Wiley