



May - August 2017



# Sea Breeze

Costa Verde District, CGCI, Pacific Region, NGC

Riviera Garden Club

Volume 59, Issue #5

## From The Past Presidents

**Marilyn Rubin** and **Kathryn Joiner** have fulfilled their jobs as 2016-17 RGC presidents. **Gloria Balcom** and **Linda Rosenfeld**, new RGC presidents, were installed at the June 6 Mad Hatter Luncheon. Marilyn and Kathryn love the Riviera Garden Club and its members! We are proud to be a part of this organization because the men and women members are NICE people; and they are people who care about the earth. Obviously, we all LOVE PLANTS! Some of us love the beauty of flowers: growing them, arranging them or giving them as gifts. Others of us

love native plants and trees: either in the wilds of nature or in our own personal landscapes. Most of us love to eat plants---fruits and vegetables: purchased from supermarkets and farmers' markets or the plants we've grown in our own yards and gardens.

Riviera Garden Club members are folks who care about other people in our community. This caring is exemplified by the projects in which Riviera Garden Club participates. We give scholarships to youth. We maintain public greenspaces. We donate to schools to help young people in their gardening efforts. We hold gardening workshops at

Torrance libraries for children as well as adults. We donate children's gardening books to school and public libraries. We plant trees. We create tiny succulent arrangements to cheer Harbor/UCLA hospital patients. All of us should here be proud to be members of our wonderful garden club. Have a wonderful summer filled with family, friends and gardening!



Marilyn Rubin & Kathryn Joiner

## Installation of 2017-18 Officers

- Co-Presidents: Gloria Balcom and Linda Rosenfield
- 1st Vice President: Marie Hoffman (field trips)  
Tecki Poletti (hostesses)  
Laurie Vaillant (programs)
- 2nd Vice President: Marilyn Rubin
- 3rd Vice President: Nan Clancy and Connie Moseley
- Secretaries: Alberta Brice and Rita Wagstaff
- Treasurer: Emily Lacina

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## Member Birthdays

### May

Cavin Shorter	2
Irma Chiota	4
Marjorie McKams	4
Lucy Torres	10
Marybeth Muir	11
Toni Ziegler	25
Techi Poletti	26

### June

Sally Wakita	6
Judy Unrine	8
Nancy Weaver	9
Regina Taylor	12
Pat Heilmann	18
Diane Hayden	27
Leony Filler	28
June Stevenson	29



### July

Nan Clancy	4
Wendy Tsuji	10
Gloria Balcom	23
Bill Blischke	27
Bobbie Davison	28
Lana Terry	29

### August

Jane Long	8
Bernice Slocovich	9
Phyllis DeCrescenzo	13
Emily Lacina	14
Margery Phillips	14
Lillian Kitagawa	18

## RGC Scholarship Recipients



**Alison Lacey** of **North High School** is headed to UC Davis to study environmental science and management.

**Brendon Mukogawa** of **West High School** will study biology and environmental science at UC San Diego.

**Kaito Lopez** of **El Camino College** will attend Cal Poly San Luis Obispo to study environmental science.

## Diamond Jubilee Brunch and Garden Tours—May 23, 2017

BRUNCH: Served poolside in the terraced garden at the Rolling Hills Estates home of member **Pat Heilmann**.

### TOURS OF RGC MEMBERS' GARDENS

5647 Sunmist Drive, Rancho Palos Verdes 90274 - **Gay Hargrave**

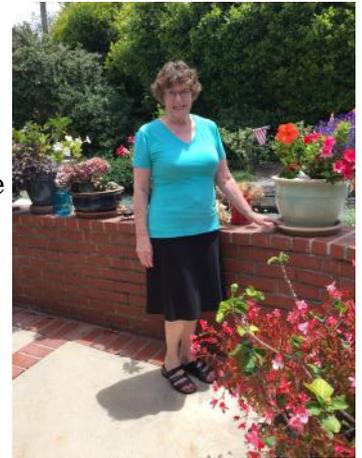
I was drawn to this property because of all the trees in the front and back yard especially the row of large cedars lining the wall above the koi pond. Those same trees presented a problem. Gone was the sunny perennial garden of the past. I found myself searching for shade loving plants that were fairly shallow rooted or did not require a moist area. Ferns and pittosporum are the backbone of my garden. Australian tree ferns and giant bird of paradise are hearty companions. Visitors to my garden say that it reminds them of “Ferndell Park”. If a past visit to that park in Los Angeles soothes your soul and makes your heart sing, you will definitely enjoy my garden environment!



3352 Via la Selva, Palos Verdes Estates 90274 - **Lynn Fernandez**

I have a very small lot with a North facing home and have managed to select shade plantings of ferns and camellias near the front of the house and white iceberg roses facing the street with Chinese fringe plants on each side of the driveway. The grass has been replaced by dymondia. My neighbor and I share an easement between our houses which is planted with magenta iceberg roses and further back there are numerous fruit trees, strawberry

guava, fig tree, butterfly bushes, pepper tree and a few herbs and vegetables. At the back of the house there are more fruit trees. Other plants in my garden include ceanothus and rosemary that growing over a low wall on the easement. My favorite hangout is on my side patio which is surrounded by potted hibiscus, various mandevilla, succulents, clematis and a dwarf lime. It is my outside “family room”!



241 Via los Miradores, Redondo Beach 90277 - **Geneva Martin**

The front and back lawns were removed without the use of chemicals, previously covered 74% of this 2500 sq. ft. landscape.

Planted in 2002, the front yard is an inspirational mix of California coastal prairie and sage scrub designed to move water away from the house, allow for onsite percolation and provide wildlife habitat for native bees, butterflies and hummingbirds.

The backyard mixes shade tolerant natives with other Mediterranean climate plants and features a lovely garden room structure.



## Diamond Jubilee Brunch and Garden Tours—May 23, 2017 - Cont'd

114 Via La Soledad, Redondo Beach 90277 -  
**Ruth Vogel**

Ruth looked forward to welcoming visitors to the new garden habitat that she created. The purpose of her garden was to conserve water in our wonderful Mediterranean climate. Yet Ruth also wished to preserve our native plant heritage with vegetation appropriate to our coastal scrub and sage zone. The garden is overflowing with California native plants, Australian and South African plants and an abundance of succulents. Surrounding the Vogel home is a total garden environment from the sidewalk border and side yards to the backyard meadow area and slope. Every portion of the Vogel garden encourages birds, bees, butterflies and all wildlife including humans! PS---Ruth Vogel's garden was on the RGC 2004 tour and attendees voted it the most enjoyable.



5025 Lee Street, Torrance 90503 -  
**Charlie Sappington**

My front patio garden has two large pine trees in the center and the area is covered with red bark. Several potted beautiful roses and succulents surround the patio. The flower beds contain enough plants to continually display magnificent color plus there is plenty of seating space to enjoy the beauty of nature.



1845 W. 180th Place, Torrance 90504 -  
**Tecki Poletti**

Tecki Poletti says that although her corner lot is small she has still managed to have two liquid amber trees in an English garden filled with milk weed, alstroemeria, maidenhair fern, daylilies, iris and two rose bushes. There are boysenberries growing on the fence fronting the lawn. There are two pocket gardens; one near the street with pots of scented geraniums and the other an atrium with walls covered with Boston ivy and a very small fountain. The back yard is really a brick patio surrounded by lots of ferns and largest bottle brush tree you have ever seen!



The piece de resistance—a concord grape arbor tucked in her side yard between her home and the neighbor's.



The RGC people who drove many miles north, but still in Torrance, to view Tecki's garden, were rewarded with

a taste of her delicious homemade concord grape pie!

Longtime Riviera Garden Club member Cecilia Ceasar shared her experiences about joining the club at the end of the 1980's. Cecilia moved to the upper Riviera with her husband and two small children, but she had no immediate family nearby. Therefore, older garden club members, Virginia Levanas and Mercedes Murner, neighbors of Cecilia, befriended her and made her feel part of the RGC family.

In 1995 Cecilia's home was featured on the spring RGC garden tour as a Mediterranean garden. The

May weather hadn't quite been warm enough for all the plants to bloom so Cecilia got up early in the morning to warm her agapanthus, in hopes that its flowers would open that day. On the morning of the tour, neighbor Mercedes Murner came over with planted pots to decorate Cecilia's back wall that had lost its vines.

When Cecilia Ceasar joined RGC, the famous Valentine luncheons were still being held at the South Coast Botanic Garden. The members

personally prepared all the food, including the chicken casseroles and the husbands set up the tables. These luncheons were followed by long bridge playing afternoons. RGC members were up at 3 am to make sure their food was fresh and ready. The outfits modelled in the Valentine fashion show were provided by I. Magnin. These luncheons were well attended with twice as many guests as members. Many members from other

local garden clubs such as Hermosa or Silver Spur attended. Half of the proceeds were donated to the Botanic

Garden. By the mid-90's, the days of cooking homemade luncheon food ended. The popular RGC Valentine luncheon and fashion show moved to the Marriott Hotel, where it ran for another 10 years. The yearly Christmas parties were celebrated at the Velvet Turtle and always included a white elephant exchange. Cecilia remembers that Beebe Moorhead and Mary Varieur were the experts at swapping for the best gifts.

Also during the 1990's, the

Rocketship Park marker area was planted with roses and perennials. Cecilia gardened at Rocketship Park and she also placed poinsettias in the Torrance Marker at Christmas time. RGC members supported the new Japanese Garden being built at the Torrance Cultural Art Center and they supported the Torrance Memorial Festival of Trees which was a much lower key event held at Wilson Park in those years. Cecilia fondly remembers the '90's as a more laid-back time, when members had more time to visit with one another.

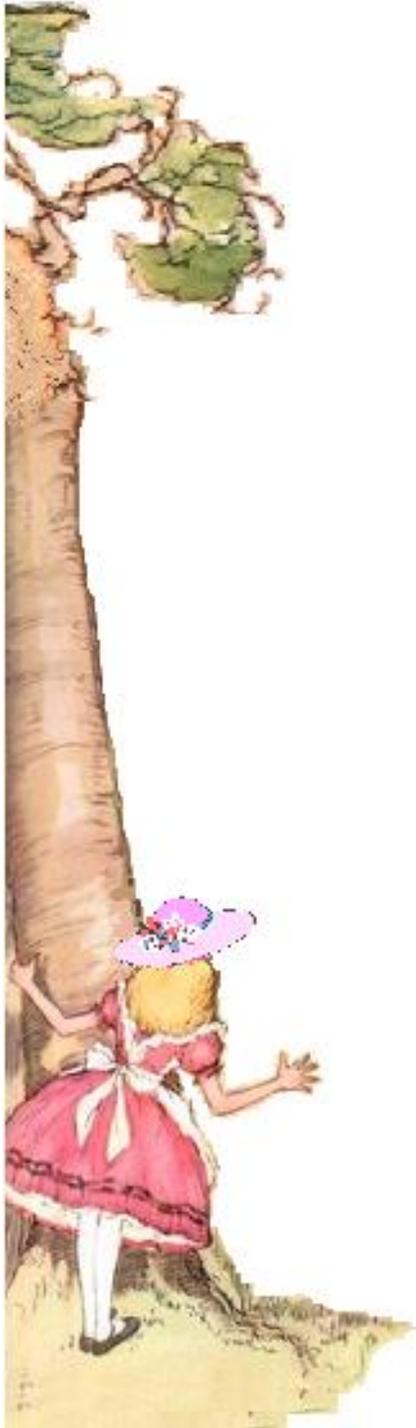
Each decade of the Riviera Garden Club has been different. Yet, the members have always been interested in friendships, civic projects, and discovering different ideas. After all, that's what gardening is about!

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



*A quick look at the 1990s*

# Madhatter Installation Luncheon



Cheese Cake Factory, June 6. 2017

**WELCOME and THANK YOU:** Marilyn Rub

**Planning and Reservations:** Pam Barrett-

**Centerpieces:** Pat Heilmann

**Installing Officer:** Geneva Martin

**Mad Hatter Judges:**

Alison Lacey, scholarship recipient

Brandon Mukogawa, scholarship recipient

Meredith Grenier, Daily Breeze and Honorary Member

**SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS ANNOUNCEMENT** by Kathryn Joiner

Alison Lacey, North High and Brendon Mukogawa, West High

Kaito Lopez, El Camino College

**THE MAD HATTER PARADE** for the three judging categories:

Most Humorous

Most Beautiful

Most Creative

**Marilyn Rubin**

**June Stevenson**

**Laurie Vaillant**

winner

winner

winner

**BUFFET LUNCHEON**

**INSTALLATION OF 2017-18 Officers**

**MAD HATTER WINNERS ANNOUNCED:** Gloria Balcom

**THANK YOU:** Linda Rosenfeld and Gloria Balcom

# Mad Hatter Fun



## Recent RGC Events

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### Fullerton Arboretum



Plant Sale



Riviera School Arbor Day



Seed to Plate Activities



Succulent Arrangements for Harbor UCLA Medical Center Patients

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

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/)



*June 2017 – the Araki residence  
300 Avenida Atezada*



*May 2017 – the Jonquieres residence  
4725 Paseo de las Tortugas*



*The Village Palos Verdes landscape committee,  
David Kline accepting*



*March 2017 – the Barth residence  
209 Via Los Altos*

## **Riviera Garden Club**

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Torrance, CA 90505

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Do you have something to share for our  
next newsletter?

Email your articles to Marilyn Rubin,  
editor of Sea Breeze at  
[usteach@rocketmail.com](mailto:usteach@rocketmail.com) or to  
[Marie@HoffmanMurphy.com](mailto:Marie@HoffmanMurphy.com)

Articles must be submitted by  
September 15th.

**We're on the Web**

**[www.RivieraGardenClub.org](http://www.RivieraGardenClub.org)**

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