



Riviera Garden Club

Sea Breeze

COSTA VERDE DISTRICT, CGCI, PACIFIC REGION, NGC

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FROM OUR PRESIDENTS



Gloria Balcom and Linda Rosenfeld

As we conclude this action-filled year, it's a good time to reflect on our happy times and achievements and to extend a heartfelt 'thank you' to all members who have given generously of their time and talents. We also want to offer some special thanks.

Marilyn Rubin has documented our year with the Sea Breeze, always keeping us organized and finding newsworthy stories for our members. **Laurie Vaillant** has done a terrific job of lining up speakers for our meetings. Expert **Lili Singer** shared her vast knowledge about hummingbirds and the native plants they thrive on. **Judy Gerber** fascinated us with local history at the beautiful Mary & Joseph Retreat Center. At RGC meetings we learned about local trees, plumerias, and discovered interesting ideas for recycling garden items. **Marie Hoffman** lined up memorable excursions. We discovered the histories of Rancho Los Cerritos and the Dominguez Rancho.

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We enjoyed the amazing Huntington Library & Gardens during our final bus trip.

Since RGC gatherings center around food, we thank **Tecki Poletti** for expertly managing this year's schedule of hostesses.

Nan Clancy, Connie Moseley and **Kathryn Joiner** manned the membership desk and handled all other RGC member services.

Treasurer, **Emily Lacina** kept excellent records and always paid the RGC bills promptly.

Rita Wagstaff and **Wendy Eddy** wrote concise and accurate the minutes during each RGC general or board meeting. The Mad Hatter luncheon and new officer installation was a great success thanks to **Pam Barrett-Hill** and **Pat Heilmann** for capably handling all the details.

Scholarships were given out at the Mad Hatter luncheon. **Jillian Glickman** of North Torrance High received the Lou Atha RGC Scholarship. **Continued on page 2**

Cole Rossi of South High won the RGC Anna Makowski Scholarship. Guest Mike Makowski, son of Anna Makowski, presented the scholarship to Cole. **Zoe Meffan** from El Camino College also received a \$1000 Riviera Garden Club Scholarship.

To cap off the year, at the June 13 Costa Verde District meeting and potluck, RGC received two awards from the state. Our program year book won a California Garden Club Incorporated (CGCI) award and **Marilyn Rubin** received a cash award and 3rd place certificate for her vegetable garden in the CGCI Home Grown category.

We are looking forward to another great year! We hope you have a relaxing and enjoyable summer and we will see you again in September!

Linda and Gloria

MEMBER NEWS AND TIDBITS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY RGC FRIENDS!

July	August
4 Nan Clancy	8 Jane Long
10 Wendy Tsuji	9 Bernice Slocovich
23 Gloria Balcom	13 Phyllis DeCrescenzo
28 Bobbie Davison	14 Emily Lacina
30 Geeta Gupta	14 Margery Phillips
	19 Wendy Eddy
	21 Peggy Peck

GET WELL WISHES TO:

Judy Unrine

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Some time in **August** you will be informed by email of a **Facebook learning session given by** RGC Facebook guru, **Marie Hoffman**.

LANDSCAPE AWARD May June 2018

Riviera Homeowners Association and Riviera Garden Club



Marilyn and Sherwin Rubin, owners
4414 Greenmeadows Ave Torrance

Initially the water-wise landscape design and installation was done by **John Bauman** (retired landscaper and owner of the historic **Begonia Farm Nursery**) with the native plants and wild flowers added by **Bill Pettitt of Green Heart Landscape**. Marilyn pristinely weeds and maintains their water-wise yard. The Rubin family has lived on Greenmeadows Ave for 42 years; and has landscaped the front and rear yards, rear easement hill and inner brick courtyard 3 times over the decades. **On June 30 Marilyn and Sherwin Rubin celebrated 50 years of marriage.**

SEASIDE HEROES PARK

Written by **Jenna Christensen** and **Marilyn Rubin**



Realtor Jenna Christensen is organizing a weeding event at SEASIDE HEROES PARK on Saturday July 14. DO COME AND HELP!

The east end of the park is located on Anza Ave. at Lomita Blvd. The west side of the park is tucked into the Seaside neighborhood at 22812 Kathryn Ave. Below is a brief history of this tiny charming Torrance park.

The area where today you will find **Seaside Heroes Park** was for over half a century a patch of dirt 2 blocks long where Lomita Blvd *might* have continued into the Seaside neighborhood when you cross Anza going West. It was an eye sore and residents repeatedly petitioned the city for a park. Finally, the City of Torrance and a group of passionate home owners worked together; and the park was unveiled on Jan. 20, 2011. Its name, **Seaside Heroes Park**, is a tribute to three local boys, (South High School graduates) who lost their lives in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.



Jenna Christensen (above) who now heads the monthly weeding work parties) lives in the neighborhood and noticed problems as she walked her dog at Seaside Heroes Park.

These are Jenna's quotes: "When I walked through the park in early spring of 2014, dead flower heads and weeds galore greeted me, and I decided something had to be done. We could not wait for the city to take action." Via the mother of one of the fallen soldiers, in honor of whom the park was named, 65 teenagers from a local church came to help on April 26th. The city of Torrance had a truck and a driver available to haul away the bags full of weeds. That driver made 7 trips!



Seaside Heroes Park is dog, child, and adult friendly. However, the park contains **NO BATHROOMS** and there is **NO POTABLE DRINKING WATER AVAILABLE**. The park draws a steady stream of visitors who enjoy all aspects of the space. Water-wise landscape is used throughout the park and irrigation is with recycled water. The downside of recycled water (those **purple pipes**) is that it contains a large amount of toxins which act as fertilizer. Unfortunately, that stimulates the growth of weeds. Therefore, to maintain the tidiness and charm of this tiny park, **SEASIDE HEROES PARK hosts WEEDING AND BEAUTIFICATION EVENTS** that take place the **2ND SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH 8 to 11 a.m. organized by local real estate agent Jenna Christensen.**

PHOTOS OF PAST RGC EVENTS

June 2, 2018 Torrance Environmental Fair



Dina Wiley and **Alberta Brice** work with succulent planting at the Riviera Garden Club booth.

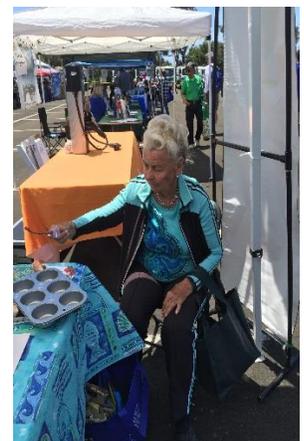
Geeta Gupta (top)
Phyllis De Crescenzo (below) help visitors plant tiny succulent arrangements at the VERY POPULAR RGC booth at the Torrance Environmental Fair.



Marilyn Rubin helps children plant bean seeds in plastic baggies with a damp paper towel. The kids can watch their beans germinate and plant them outdoors later.

Pati Johnson cleaned up and packed all RGC activity items at the close of the Torrance Environmental Fair.
Kathryn Joiner prepares green bean seeds.

(photos on right)



JUST A FEW MAD HATTER HAT PHOTOS

June 5, 2018



Nancy Weaver



Kathryn Joiner



Aleen Houston



Linda Rosenfeld and Gloria Balcom



Sharon Saffer



Leony Filler



Betty Moye



Cynthia Lundin



Lola Ungar



Eunice Hargrove



Charlie Sappington



Diane Hayden



Mary Varieur



Kay Kanuit



Terri Grijalva



Mary Alessandra-Cook



Jillian Glickman wins RGC Lou Atha Scholarship presented by **Pati Johnson** at the Mad Hatter



RGC Officer Installer **Geneva Martin** with **Nancy Weaver** and **Regina Taylor**



Cole Rossi wins RGC Anna Makowski Scholarship presented by **Mike Makowski** and **Pati Johnson**



Mary Varieur, **Marie Hoffman** and **Tecki Poletti** are having a GREAT time at the Mad Hatter.



Mad Hatter winners **Cynthia Lundin** (most creative) **Marilyn Rubin** (funniest) **Laurie Vaillant** (most beautiful)

Sea Breeze Editor Marilyn Rubin
Riviera Garden Club
 Check out our website at



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