



Riviera Garden Club

Sea Breeze

COSTA VERDE DISTRICT, CGCI, PACIFIC REGION, NGC

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January- February 2014

From our Presidents

Geneva Martin & Nancy Weaver

Email us at president@rivieragardenclub.org

Happy New Year, everyone. We are looking forward to a productive and enjoyable 6 months as we complete our terms as co-presidents. Our wonderful Board and volunteer members are continuing their hard work to accomplish that.

We hope you have had time to get out in your garden during these beautiful days we've been having. With the cold nights, the plants must be very confused - is it spring or winter? Unfortunately, the weeds aren't and they just keep coming.

We know everyone is keeping Mary Varieur in their hearts after the loss of her husband.

Thanks to Beebe Moorhead for your gracious tribute to Edith Dees on page 5

Be sure to mark your calendars for our upcoming events. And we look forward to seeing you at the next meeting.

Thank you for your Holiday donations

Bill Blischke reports 270 pairs of shoes - many from RGC.

Toni Sargent reports 100 Angel gifts - half from RGC.

Harbor- UCLA received several dozen socks, t-shirts, sweat pants/crew/t-shirt and individual toiletries.

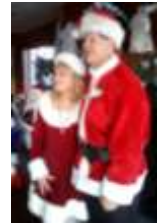
We are always amazed and delighted by your generosity.



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Thanks to Pam and Jim for hosting another great holiday party.



The Waleria Library staff sent RGC a Christmas card. Thank you Lynne Stern for arrangements and Marilyn Rubin for keeping the planters beautiful .

Thanks to Lynn Fernandez, who will be our new RGC representative for selecting the Riviera Homeowner Landscape of the Month. She also reports that letters will go out to the Torrance high schools in February soliciting applications for our \$1000 scholarship.

Geneva & Nancy



Members enjoy singers at RGC holiday party.

Project Status

Our Club approved funding for a scholarship for an horticulture student at El Camino and for Community Workshops. If you would like to coordinate a workshop, please let us know.



Our club approved monetary assistance for the Native Plant Garden at Richardson Middle School, planted & maintained by parent Dan Portway. Dan Portway will be taking a leave of absence to work on major restoration at Madrona Marsh. Attend their annual meeting on January 26 at 2pm to hear more.



On November, 4 the City of Torrance Parks and Recreation Commission recommended that the City Council approve our donation for Los Arborles (Rocketship) Park. The City Council accepted our donation of fescue sod that doesn't need to be mowed for the bank on the western edge of the park on December 10th. Work has started on removing the old plantings.



On November 10th, the City of Torrance Cultural Arts Commission recommended that the City Council approve our application for the El Retiro mural. The City Council accepted our donation on December 10th. Painting will start this Friday, January 17.

Dean says, "The design of the mural is of a large open book whose words are taken from a quote, picked by the garden club, of ancient Roman philosopher and senator, Cicero: "If you have a garden and a library, you have everything you need". These words have as much relevance now as they did when they were penned more than 2000 years ago. To the sides and behind the book are trees and blue sky. Birds and butterflies are flying through the sky and perching on tree branches. In time the replanted garden in front of the mural will grow and create a living foreground. The painting ties together the location and the garden to embody the essence of Cicero's quote while promoting the values of the Riviera Garden Club, El Retiro Library, and the neighboring community."

We are still working with the City of Torrance on the two remaining projects: tree planting and bench donation. The city quota of our initial locations for both projects have been met, so we are in the process of determining alternate sites. When determined, our club will vote to approve the City's suggested sites.

Dean Bardos & El Retiro Mural



Dean is a local emerging fine art painter and mixed-media artist who has lived most of his life in the South Torrance area. Among other projects, Dean organized and directed a multi-paneled mixed-media mural project with the Saint Katherine Greek Orthodox

Church community here in the South Bay.

Dean says "Since I've moved back to the area, El Retiro has taken on an additional meaning to me as the place where I take my daughter to play and go to story time over the summer as well as check out books and just have fun. The present state of El Retiro is the nicest that I ever remember it being. There is clean and safe equipment for kids to play on and it is always busy. El Retiro is a pleasant and safe place to have a picnic or barbeque. When the garden club approached me with the idea to paint a mural at the library I was elated to think that I could contribute to this park renaissance. To me, painting this mural is more than just a job because I will be painting this mural for my friends, my family, and my community."

Member News & Tidbits

New Members

A warm welcome to our new members: Stella Leontsini and Lillian Kitagawa

Sunshine

We will be thinking of Nan Clancy, Gene Hassan, Pat Heilmann and Anne Jensen. Condolences to Mary Varieur on the sudden passing of her husband, Russell, Bill Blischke on the loss of his brother and to Edie Dees on the passing of her mother.

The services for Russell Varieur have been scheduled for 3 pm on January 17 at the Center for Spiritual Living (formerly Religious Science) at the intersection of Prospect and Knob Hill.

Ten & Twenty Year Members Honored



Pati Johnson & Jean Vasquez (left) receive 10 year member certificates



Mary Varieur & June Young (right) receive 20 year member certificates

CVD Holiday Party



Charlie Sappington, Marilyn Rubin, Sharon Ratterree and Laurie Valliant at CVD Holiday Tea

Congratulations

January Birthdays

Jean Vasquez	02	Michelle Friedman	10
Jeannie Brown	05	Mary Varieur	16
Linda Rosenfeld	07	Bertie Wood	16
Don O'Donal	08		

February Birthdays

Anne Jensen	02	Martha Bragg	23
Glyndis Calley	15	Gay Hargrave	23
Rita Wagstaff	22	Dina Wiley	26

Calendar of Events

Riviera Garden Club:

January 21, Tuesday, 9:30 am. [RGC Board Meeting](#), Carole Lefevre

January 28, Tuesday, 9:30 am. [RGC General Meeting](#), Airport, Houseplants by the owner of Peter's Garden Center

February 18, Tuesday, 9:30 am. [RGC Board Meeting](#), Toni Ziegler

February 25, Tuesday, 8:30 am. [RGC Bus Excursion to Descanso Gardens](#), Tram tour & box lunch \$37 - trip half full - sign up now

March 18, Tuesday, 9:30 am. [RGC Board Meeting](#), Marybeth Muir

March 25, Tuesday, 9:30 am. [RGC General Meeting](#), Airport, Tomatoes by Laura Taylor, Queen of Tomatoes

Other:

January 25, February 8 & 22 [Weather-based irrigation controller exchange](#)

February 13-16, CGCI Winter Board

February 28, [SBCCOG's 15th Annual General Assembly](#), "Why Must We Care? - The Cost of the Changing Environment to the South Bay," will be held at the Juanita Millender-McDonald Community Center (801 E. Carson St., Carson CA 90745)

March 1-9 Philadelphia Flower Show

March 5, New Date, Wednesday, 9:30 am. Costa Verde District Meeting, SCBG, Using Color in Your Garden by Alexis Slafer. Hosted by Riviera and San Pedro.

March 19-23 - San Francisco Flower Show

RGC Fundraiser Fashion show

If you would like to help plan this fundraiser at Draper & Damon - please let us know. The committee would set the date, recruit the models and print and sell the tickets. Draper & Damon will provide lunch and the clothes.

Plant Sale

April 26 - Nan Clancy & Allison Jones need workers plus plants. Details on planning meeting soon.

NGC Environmental Studies School



Geneva is organizing a preliminary committee for a [National Garden Clubs, Inc. Environmental Studies School](#).

This school, with the first session tentatively scheduled for August, will teach environmental literacy to cherish, protect and conserve the living earth. Each of the four courses consists of 8 one hour lectures and a two hour field trip plus review and exam. The first course is called the living earth and then the subsequent courses are on land, air and water.

The preliminary committee will set course budget, price, location and schedule. The chairman and proctor will probably have difficulty taking the test. However, the following course positions: registrar, treasurer, brochure designer, publicity chairman, and the coordinator of morning coffee and lunches probably can take the test if desired. We hope to meet soon, if you would like to fill one of these positions and/or help, let Geneva know.

Theodore Payne Native Plant Garden Tour

April 5 Geneva's garden will be on the tour. See [Native Plant Garden Tour](#) for tickets. To be a docent : contact Andrew Chaves, our October speaker, at volunteer@theodorepayne.org

CGCI Wildflower Conference

April 6-8 conference in Tehachapi. Registration fee of \$90 include Sunday evening reception, all lectures/ workshops on Monday, dinner and entertainment on Monday and the tour Tuesday morning. Lunches not included. Rooms are \$79 per night, reservations by 3/20. See [Wildflower Conference Form](#) and page 5 of the latest edition of [Golden Garden eNews](#), which you should be receiving via email. Also, there is an article by George Unrine on the [2007 Wildflower Conference](#).

Remembering Edith Dees

1919 - 2013

Edith Dees joined Riviera Garden Club in 1960 and served as president in 1971-1972 and again in 1978 and 1979. Edith was known for her charm, and mild manners. She never lost her temper and was quick to laugh at almost anything you would say. Her laugh was infectious and you always felt good in her presence.

Edith was one of the master flower arrangers in our club. She loved to participate in the shows where we worked in coordination with the South Bay Watercolor Society to make flower arrangements to highlight various paintings in the show. The local public seemed to really enjoy this double effort of artists.

Edith was the only Riviera Garden Club member to have a day remembered in her honor. When Beebe Moorhead served as president in 1998, she provided a resolution to the club resolving that it was Edith Dees' birthday and therefore declaring the day as "Edith Dees Day". The club members finished their meeting and took Edith to lunch.

Edith was quiet and soft spoken but she also would speak her mind. When one of the members found out that Edith had never had a root beer float, she took the makings to Edith's house and watched while Edith tasted it. When she asked Edith, "How do you like the root beer float", Edith responded, "Well, it's not the best thing I've ever tasted." (She ate the whole thing.)

The last time Beebe visited Edith was one week before she passed away. The last words she heard Edith speak were, "I want a cookie". Now when she remembers this, it makes her smile.

Edith was a warm and loving person, a hard worker and a real credit to Riviera Garden Club. She was generous with cuttings from her garden and she will be remembered with love and tenderness. **Beebe Moorhead**



Edith at an early Valentine Bridge Tea



Edith at Blue Star Dedication



Edith at painting/arrangement show

Landscape Awards

October 2013



The Low Residence - 5213 Calle de Arboles

November 2013



The Merritt residence - 621 Paseo de los Reyes

December 2013



The Mosbacher residence – 304 Via Linda Vista

Thank you Karen Lent for 5 years of great awards. She ends with these last three. Previous landscape awards can be seen at [Landscape Awards](#).

Streetscapes News

Beth Overstreet, Engineering Manager, Torrance Public Works, reports that they are still finalizing the sewer plans and making a few changes to the traffic control plans for PV Blvd before it goes out to bid. Also, they did receive the additional funding for PCH service road improvements across from South High, so they are trying to add in the irrigation for better landscaping to the plans and resubmit to Caltrans for approval. If you wondered about that part of the downed fence in the center median, the City is not replacing it this time

For more information check out our website at www.rivieragardenclub.org

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