



Riviera Garden Club

Sea Breeze

Issue No. 3

December 2009 – January 2010

From our Presidents

Karen Lent & Shelley Lubinsky

Email us at president@rivieragardenclub.org

Welcome to 2010! This is the year of the Tiger according to the Chinese calendar. Our grandchildren are called 'Generation Z' and the Riviera Garden Club is in the middle of our 'Garden Power' year. And, world economic changes have brought renewed interest in gardening and conservation. So, while we are not among the digital generation Z, we are definitely 'in' when it comes to green movements.

As we heard from Paul Herzog of the Surfrider Foundation in November, it is a time to be mindful of how we treat our yards, plants, wildlife – and to be aware of drought issues and water usage. Plus, it is essential to be proactive of runoff in order to protect the health of our oceans. We are all part of the 'big picture' and as such, RGC members strive to spread knowledge, education and recently, the appreciation of drought tolerant plants. (Please see the article on page 2 concerning the ocean trash vortex composed most of plastic.)

From our Yearbook: The RGC objectives are to "educate, increase interest in and knowledge of: gardening, plant and bird life, conservation of all natural resources ..." To that end, this year we will reinstitute Arbor Day and help with a Tree Planting Ceremony at Riviera Grammar School on March 11. We have already done much to educate ourselves about vegetable gardening and water-wise plants (plus, RGC has instituted several civic drought tolerant plant areas). We will reduce our plastic usage and continue to conserve, educate, and be role models for Generation Z. Garden Power! Love Ya, *Shelley & Karen*

"The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The next best time is now." Chinese Proverb

January Landscape Award

Jill and Michael Barnett's beautiful new contemporary craftsman on Via Pasqual had lovely but 'contractor-looking' landscaping. Gradually they have re-executed it to better fit their personal style.

Tall pampas grass was replaced with flax and myers asparagus. Yellow kangaroo paws highlight the edge of the driveway -- and a striking low profile of purple lobelia and sunset gold diosma grace the street edge. Containers of attractive succulents add a welcoming touch to the contemporary concrete pads leading to the sunny front entrance .

The Barnetts have lived in the Riviera for over twenty years, moving from Via Colusa to 315 Via Pasqual a little over a year ago.



RGC salutes the Barnetts

The Holiday Party was the BEST!

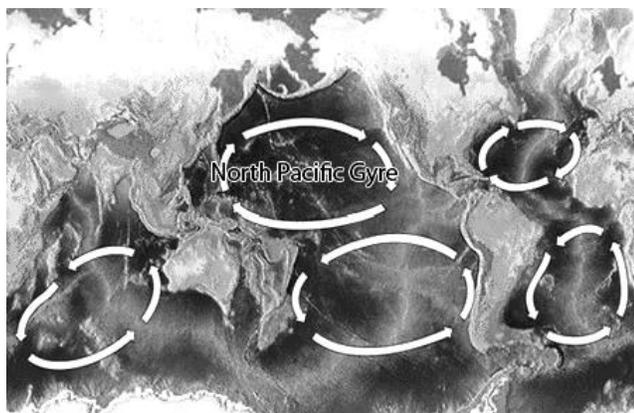
Thanks again to Pam Barrett and Jim Hill, aka Santa and Mrs. Claus, for helping with a GREAT Holiday Party. Terrific entertainment. And thanks to all for being so generous with our philanthropies: Holiday Angels and Men's UCLA Hospital Gifts.

Sadly, we were not able to present **Adele Rockwood** with her 25-Year Garden Club certificate (continued on page 2)

Holiday Party (continued from page 1)
before her passing; but she knew the honor was coming and was humbled by it. The good news was that it was a pleasure and an honor to have Honorary Member **Fuzzy Ishikawa** and her daughter with us. (How GREAT can someone look at age 97?)

The Great Pacific Garbage Patch is TWICE the size of Texas

This Garbage Patch, also described as the **Pacific Trash Vortex**, is characterized by exceptionally high concentrations of suspended plastic and other debris that have been trapped by the currents of the North Pacific Gyre. Despite its size and density, the patch is not visible from satellite photography because it consists of very small pieces almost invisible to the naked eye, and most of its contents are suspended beneath the surface of the ocean. (from Wikipedia.)



We all need to REUSE, RECYCLE and REDUCE

In appreciation

Our 'water house' friend, **Mary Lou McCammack**, has gifted us again. Thank you so much, Mary Lou. We really appreciate your \$500 boost to our treasury.

We have made Mary Lou a Supporting Patron of our Club. (This membership category was instituted a few years ago and is being used for the first time.)

We want to thank **Soil** and **Fringe**, both in the Riviera Village, for donating raffle prizes for our

holiday party.

Upcoming events

Bunco

The January Bunco is filled. We have a tentative future date of 2/25 pm on the Calendar. Please contact Charlie if you would like to participate – you don't have to know how – just plan to have fun!

Designs for Dining

Our Club has been asked to participate in Designs for Dining this year. St. Francis church has been producing this fun event for ten years.

It is the church's scholarship fund raiser that takes place on Friday & Saturday, March 5 and 6. Tickets are \$25 and include yummy food, demonstrations, lectures, and a chance to see many beautifully decorated tables executed by professionals (including RGC's formidable design team!)

Call Karen or Shelley if you'd like to participate. Otherwise, just come and enjoy.

Succulent Workshop

Our succulent workshop will be held on **Tuesday, March 30** at **Diana Crane's** home. We will put together succulent planters for the Men's UCLA Hospital (our annual philanthropy) plus start propagation on some succulent containers to be sold at our upcoming plant sale. Bring margarine containers, terra cotta (or other) pots to be potted for the sale.

Annual Plant Sale

This year's Plant Sale will be on Saturday, April 24, at Charlie Sappington's. Start propagating plants now. Set up/pricing will take place the three days prior to the sale (the 21st, 22nd & 23rd). If you like to bake, yummy goodies also sell well. We offer free coffee and last year we made about \$800. Let's try to top that! Proceeds go to our student scholarships.

Nominations are called for

We are beginning the nomination process for RGC year 2010-11. A Nominating Committee of three club members (volunteers or drafted, and approved by (continued on page 4)

HAITIAN SHOE & CLOTHING DRIVE – Gently used items should be delivered to Sports Chalet (Hawthorne Blvd. at Torrance Blvd. before January 30.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Jan 24, 1:00 pm. Bunco – Marilyn’s

Jan 26, 9:30. RGC General Meeting (Member Sharing), Torrance Airport

Jan 27. CVD Board

Feb 3. Costa Verde District Meeting, Veggie Speaker (RGC hosts).

Feb 16. RGC Board Meeting at Gloria R’s.

Feb 23. RGC General Meeting – Cooking with Pitsa (a well-known Greek Festival and Adult Ed. teacher), Torrance Airport.

Feb 25 p.m. (or TBD). Bunco

March 5 & 6. Designs for Dining, (set up March 4), St. Francis Church

March 11, 11 a.m. Riviera School Arbor Day Tree Planting,

March 16. RGC Board,

March 19. Newsletter Deadline,

March 23. RGC General Meeting, Organic Gardening lecture by Gisele Sconiger of Kellogg Garden Prods.

March 30, 10 am. Succulent Workshop. Bring pots and/or margarine tubs (to be covered w/foil) and nicer terra cotta pots for plant sale.

May 4. Walteria Library reopening (tentative).

April 17. South Coast Botanic Garden Plant Sale.

April 20. RGC Board Meeting, Marilyn R’s.

April 21, 22, 23. Price and set-up for RCG Plant Sale (Charlie’s)

April 22 – 25. South Coast Plaza Garden Show.

April 24. Plant Sale at Charlie’s.

April 29 (Thursday). Bus Trip to Getty & Lake Shrine.

Congratulations

January Birthdays

Jean Vasquez	02	Bertie Wood	16
Mary Varieur	16		

February Birthdays

Anne Jensen	02	Barbara Carrington	23
Glyndis Dean	15	Gay Hargrave	23
Martha Bragg	23		

Member News & Tidbits

Did you see her on T.V.???

Pam Barrett and Jim Hill were riders in the Rose Parade. They were on the award winning City of Torrance float which was called Garden of Dreams. Pam and Jim have been Torrance float supporters for many years.

Healing

We are thankful that members are healing: **Anne Jensen** from complications of gall bladder surgery, **Bobbie Davison** from a bad arm break and surgery, **George Unrine** from cancer surgery. All are on the road to recovery thankfully! It was also great to see **Sheila Kutkus** at the Holiday Party looking normal again after serious back surgery.

Condolences to **Alberta** and **Gary** Brice for the recent loss of Gary’s brother.

New Members

A warm welcome to new members:

- Marybeth Muir 310-373-7751
1652 Espinosa Circle
Palos Verdes Estates, 90274-1920
muirmorgan@aol.com
Birthday: 05-11 Spouse: David
- Gay Hargrave 310-541-6880
5647Sunmist Dr.
Rancho Palos Verdes 90275
huladawg@cox.net
Birthday: 2-23 Spouse: Doug
- Barbara Bratcher-Ott (310) 326-9960
2302 – 238th St. Spouse: Larry
Torrance, CA. 90501-5915
barbaraott@sbcglobal.net
- Pitsa Captain (378-7913)
23203 Adolph Ave.
Torrance, CA 90505-3516
micapt@msn.com

Garage Sale

Our impromptu garage sale during the first part of December raised over \$500 (5% of our budget) – and we got to clean out some closets. Thanks to all ‘the unknowns’ who dropped off stuff. But special thanks to workers: Marilyn R., Geneva, Shelley, Eunice, Carole, Pati J., and Gloria R. (Wow, does that Marilyn know how to work a crowd!)

Community News

Arbor Day

Nancy Weaver and Karen are working with Riviera Elementary on a National Arbor Day Poster Contest and have planned an Arbor Day and Tree Planting Ceremony on March 11 at the school – we hope you will all join us for this significant event!

Nominations (continued from page 2)

the membership) will seek candidates for all club positions for the coming year. This will include President and Board positions, as well as Committee Chairs and Membership. If you are interested in any

position, whether it is currently filled or not, please let the soon-to-be-named Nominating Committee be aware of your interest.

Upcoming Field Trip

On **THURSDAY, APRIL 29** our Bus Trip will visit the serene Lake Shrine in Pacific Palisades and the Getty Villa. Sign up with the Programs Committee: Marilyn Rubin, Cecilia or Carol.



The Shrine’s gardens and natural spring-fed lake are home to a variety of flora and fauna.

For more information check out our website at www.rivieragardenclub.org or contact Gloria Balcom, Editor, at g.balcom@verizon.net or 310-378-5464

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