



Riviera Garden Club

Sea Breeze

Issue No. 5

April – May 2010

From our Presidents

Karen Lent & Shelley Lubinsky

Email us at president@rivieragardenclub.org

This is our last newsletter of the 2009-2010 year and reflecting back we realize WE DID IT! And, what did we do? We accomplished GARDEN POWER in many rewarding and invigorating ways!

We had fun on field trips and sharing pot lucks! We learned from speakers Scott Daigre of Tomatomania and Giselle Schoniger of Kellogg Garden Products. We had a yummy cooking demo with member and educator Pitsa Captain.

We shared ourselves with the community through Arbor Day and basket planting workshops at El Retiro. We worked hard at our plant sale and succulent planting to provide a little bit of sunshine for Harbor General shut ins – as well as scholarships for two local students: one at South High School and another at El Camino College.

We replanted the planter boxes at Walteria Library and planted Daffodil bulbs at El Retiro Park (part of a nationwide project sponsored by National Garden



Shelley & Karen at South Coast Botanic Garden Anniversary
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Bus trip to Getty Villa & Lake Shrine

Our April 29 excursion was a great success. A highlight was the docent tour of the herb garden at Getty Villa. Our thanks go to Marilyn Rubin and Programs for a job well done.



Getty Museum docent introduces RGC to Greek God Bachaus, Getty Bus Trip

New RGC Board for 2010-11

Thank you for stepping up to the plate (most of you AGAIN).

Co-Presidents: Shelley Lubinsky & Karen Lent

Co First VPs (Programs): Marilyn Rubin, Carol Lefevre, Cecilia Ceasar

Second VP (Yearbook): Geneva Martin

Third VP (Membership) Wendy Tsujil*

Co-Secretaries: Gloria Resek & Nancy Weaver*

Treasurer: June Young

*Pending ratification at Board & General Meetings

Much appreciation goes to **Eunice Hargrove** for doing an admirable job at Membership for 2 years, and to **Ginnie Schneider** as Co-Secretary for 2 years.

From our Presidents (continued)

Clubs.) We maintained our community projects at the Torrance Marker, Colinas Circle, El Retiro and Rocketship Park. At Christmas we gave generously to the men patients at Harbor General and to needy children through the Salvation Army Angel program.

In addition, we awarded many local homeowners "Landscape Awards" in conjunction with the Riviera Homeowners Association.

We stretched with two new fun projects this year: "Flower Power" installations at Power of Art and our elegant "Songbirds" table design at Designs for Dining. We participated in the South Coast Botanic Garden 50th Anniversary Party - it was fun to see the many other garden clubs and plant societies up close. Oh yes, we also went a bit Green - eliminating Styrofoam and plastic water bottles at meetings.

Although we sadly lost two long-time Club members this year (Adele Rockwood and Anne Greenway), we have happily added many new members with whom we will continue to enjoy the RGC experience. We appreciate those that have shared with us: our **Patron Sponsor Mary Lou McCammack** and the **Torrance Friends of the Library** who partnered with us on a couple of projects - thank you! We thank the **City of Torrance Parks and Cityscapes** for working with us too! And we so appreciate all the hard working and supporting members of our Club!

Hope to see you at Mad Hatters! Have a great summer and put September 28 on your calendar for our kick off 2010-2011 year with MORE GARDEN POWER! Fondly, *Shelley & Karen*

p.s. If you haven't signed up for a position or a committee, please think how you might want to be further involved in our Club. Do not hesitate to call us should you have questions, suggestions or gripes.

Landscape Design Study School

The next organizing meeting will be June 22 at South Coast Botanic Garden. Call **Geneva Martin** to RSVP. Don't miss a great chance to be involved in this interesting professional landscape instruction which is open to the community. Course 1 will take place November 4 and 5.

It's a bumper crop of first-time food gardeners

(excerpt from South Bay Daily Breeze article/photo dated 3/12/10 by Meredith Grenier)

"One of the healthiest by-products of the recession has been a nationwide bumper crop of first-time food gardeners.

"...Despite the recent trend, members of area community gardens such as those in Torrance, Long Beach, Gardena, Bell Gardens and San Pedro have long been ahead of the curve.



RGC's Marilyn Rubin harvests crops for her soup pot

"Marilyn Rubin has maintained a 20-by-20 foot plot in the community garden at Lago Seco Park (3920 235th St., Torrance) since 2007.

"...Despite the cool weather in February, Rubin said she had an overflowing crop of peas, arugula, chard, onions, turnips, cauliflower broccoli, mustard greens, beets, carrots, parsley, cabbage, kale, Brussels sprouts and lettuces, along with lavender and nasturtiums to beautify the garden and to attract bees.

"During a recent visit to the garden, the retired Arnold Elementary School kindergarten teacher harvested her bounty in a large straw basket and prepared to take it home for the soup pot.

"Today, Rubin spends from 10 – 14 hours a week at her plot weeding, planting, mulching and harvesting."

"Even if you're on the right track, you'll get run over if you just sit there."-- Will Rogers

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May 18. RGC Board Meeting – Gloria Rezek’s.

May 25. RGC Gen. Mtg., Airport & car share PV Garden Tour. Optional: Tea at Vintage Tea Room, Long Beach (\$32). Send check to Marilyn R.

June 1. Gentle reminder – RGC 2010/11 dues (\$30) to be turned in to Eunice before June 15.

June 3-6. CGCI Convention in Westlake. Call Shelley or Karen for more details on speakers & classes.

June 8. Mad Hatter Luncheon 11:30 am @ Giorgios Restaurant, P.V. Decorate a hat w/flowers for the most beautiful, green or comical contests. Robin Porkowski (former CA Garden Clubs President) will be our guest. \$25 -- RSVP to Mary Varieur by 6/1.

June 6-12. National Garden Week.

June 15. Deadline to order your 2011 Vision of Beauty Calendars (\$6 per calendar) from Geneva.

June 22. Landscape Design Study School at SCBG. Details & RSVP, Geneva.

June 23. CVD General Meeting, End-of-Year Luncheon & Photo Contest. SCBG. Bring your 4x6 picture(s) of a single flower for the contest.

Have a GREAT Summer!

September 21: RGC Board Meeting

September 28: RGC General Meeting.

Congratulations

May Birthdays

Calvin Shorter	02	Lynne Stern	14
Marybeth Muir	11	Tecki Poletti	26

June Birthdays

Judy Unrine	08	Barbara Bratcher-Ott	28
Nancy Weaver	09	June Stevenson	29
Ginnie Schneider	14		

July Birthdays

Wendy Tsuji	10	Gloria Balcom	23
Pat Smith	22	Lana Terry	29

August Birthdays

Katherine Harrison	21	Marnie Inman	31
Kitty Hill	28		

Member News & Tidbits

Congratulations to:

- Pam Barrett for being honored by the Volunteer Center as a “Legend” for her exemplary volunteering!
- Bobbie and Paul Davison on their beautiful new home on Calle Miramar.

A big thanks to:

- **Charlie** and all of her hard-working helpers for a great Plant Sale. We made over \$1,100 (our best yet) that will go towards scholarships. Good job!
- **Gisele Schoniger** of **Kellogg Garden Products** for her dynamic talk at our recent General Meeting on the importance of healthy soil and how to create it.

Our condolences and hugs to:

- Kathryn Joiner on the sad loss of her husband, Jim.

New members

We are delighted to have welcomed twelve new members to RGC this year: Barbara Bratcher-Ott, Gina Bush, Pitsa Captain, Gay Hargrave, Katherine Harrison, Kathryn Joiner, Allison Jones, Marybeth Muir, Don O’Donal, Ann Gilbreth Pfister, Sharon Ratterree and Michaelle Sagolla.



Some of our newest RGC members: from left Sharon Ratterree, Barbara, Bratcher-Ott, Marybeth Muir, Don O'Donal, Allison Jones & Gay Hargrave.

March Landscape Award



Stella and Michael Bullock at 208 Calle de Madrid

The Bullock residence is dressed for Spring! Tall pink and yellow snapdragons and purple pansies set the color palette. Palms provide the gentle back drop for pink topiary azaleas. Their Spanish hacienda style home has a sprawling green lawn. And handsome stone planters brim with the color. The hardscaped walk way and driveway set unified borders. South Bay natives, the Bullocks, their son and two daughters have lived in the Riviera for over twenty years at three different addresses. Calle de Madrid has been their home for the last seven. Stella and Michael said they'd been hoping to

get a "Landscape Award" sign after previous vigorous gardening sessions – but felt that at this particular time their yard got an extra boost from the March rains.

Thanks to the Bullocks and Mother Nature for the colorful Spring treat!

Two former RGC Presidents take a well-earned rest



Irma Maggio and June Young on Rancho Los Alamitos field trip

Irma has been a member for over 40 years, and June for over 11. Both are still active: Irma did a clever black & white arrangement for Power of Art. June is currently repeating several terms as RGC Treasurer. And we treasure them both!

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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