



Presidents – Wendy Tsuji & Geneva Martin
Editor – Geneva Martin

November/December 2007
Issue 5
Costa Verde District, CGCI, NGC

Email us at president@rivieragardenclub.org
Check out our website at www.rivieragardenclub.org
Our schedule is online at www.localendar.com/public/RivGarden

The Presidents Message:

Almost time for the Christmas Luncheon

We are looking forward to the next meeting at Mary's with her demonstration of how to make concrete planters.

If you haven't signed up for the Christmas Luncheon, let Pam know you want to come. Friends and spouses are welcome. It is December 4th at 11:00 at South Bay Grill. Checks for \$30 should be made out to Riviera Garden Club.



RGC received kudos from the CGCI secretary and the CVD flower coordinator for our use of recycled water bottles in our flower

arrangements. Thanks to Toni Sargent for thinking of and providing Fiji Water bottles for our Dahlia arrangements.

Geneva also attended a parliamentary workshop. She learned all about the order of motions – now let's see if it will help her run the meetings.
Wendy & Geneva

Your Help is Appreciated

Thanks for the yearbooks

Thanks to George and Judy for the beautiful yearbooks. Please see him if you didn't get yours.

Hospital Therapy

Our annual Christmas gift giving for male patients at Harbor UCLA Medical Center is here. Members are asked to please bring gifts to the November meeting or drop them off at June Stevenson's house. Most appreciated items are toiletries or clothing such as socks, underwear,

sweat shirts and sweat pants. All these items must be new and unwrapped. Books, games, or puzzles need not be new.

Please start saving margarine containers for the March succulent therapy workshop. *June Stevenson.*

Christmas Angels

Once again I have Angels for The Salvation Army's Angel Project. I will bring the angels to next meetings. If you would like to help a child, you can select an angel for a child and buy a gift, returning it gift wrapped and labeled with the lower half of the angel. Also, you may donate a gift, wrapped and labeled with the sex and age of a child for which the toy is appropriate. Often these angel gifts are the only present that a child will receive. Gifts can be returned to me by the holiday luncheon, or, at the VERY latest, by December 14.
Toni Sargent

Membership News

Spread the Fun

We are always looking for new members that are "FUN" and energetic to enjoy working with our membership of "experienced gardeners!" Our experience varies and that is how we learn from each other. Our General Meeting at the Sea Lab was an example of a FUN mixture of friends being together in a new, different environment. Trent Houston, who is our Scholarship Recipient, works part-time and gives tours of the Sea Lab and Horticulture Section. We are so proud of all his accomplishments. Tell your friends about the good times we have together and ALL that we learn from speakers, outings and each other—thanks
Your Membership Chair—Pam

Sunshine News

Edith Dees is assisting her ill husband.

DeLaine Anthony is busy taking care of her husband and recovering from the removal of a cyst on her wrist. She sends her thanks and hopes to be back soon.

Diane Connell also sends thanks for flowers, visits, calls, and cards and hopes to see us soon.

Reported by Margaret Majid, with note from Diane.

Civic Beautification News

The Garden at El Retiro Library

Jean Winter continues to beautify El Retiro and Eunice Hargrove has volunteered to help her. Thanks to both of these ladies.

Our Garden Corner

Our September Speaker

Master Gardener, Kathleen Sonnet is an advocate in sustainable gardening which is growing what you like economically while taking care of environmental issues. Knowing that many of us enjoy water loving blooms she suggested planting among them water loving vegetables like lettuce. Adding vegetables and herbs to one's flower garden can increase the overall beauty and keep those vegetable loving crawling pests under control. Marigolds, for example not only fill in nicely between tomato plants but also keep bugs away.

Our October Outing



Our October meeting at the SEA Lab introduced us to recovering sea animals, including lobsters, halibut and two foot sharks that could be petted. The

highlight was a tour of the California native plant lab by our scholarship winner, Trent Houston. The Sea Lab is planting California, Coastal and Dune buckwheats along the coastal banks.

CVD's October Speaker

At the first CVD meeting, Peggy Wormington told us she was so determined to understand the

Veronica that she has attempted to plant nearly every variety in her gardens first back east and now here! With time the number of varieties increased and now there is a variety for most soil types and temperature. There are even at least three California native varieties: Veronica alpine, Veronica cusickii and the Veronica americana. This perennial whose common name is Speedwell varies in size from small ground covers to taller clump forms with delicate flower spikes. Hebes are often mistaken for Veronicas and vice versa.

Landscape of the Month Award

October Shelby Houston and David Turner 4704 Paseo de las Tortugas

This newly landscaped garden began when the original house was completely remodeled. By completely removing the lawn, landscape designer Gina Bush developed the front garden into a drought resistant modern style, which correlates beautifully with the contemporary ranch architecture of the home. Trees, shrubs, ground covers and ornamental grasses show how foliage textures and colors can combine for beautiful effects. Crape Myrtle, non-fruiting Olive trees and Hopseed Bush serve as visually anchoring points that seem to divide separate areas of Gazania, prostrate Myoporum, Rosemary, Ajuga, Dymondia and Ceanothus ground covers. Agave, Phormium and Cordyline contribute structure, texture and dramatic form.

September Dot Barclay and Diana Barclay Crane 202 Via Anita

This is a garden that never holds still. It first was lovingly created by mother Dot and has evolved under daughter Diana's artistic eye and care into a textured botanical tapestry. The surrounding slopes and sidewalk strip are covered with a profusion of shrubs, perennials and grasses that provide bold and vibrant color combinations. Many plants are creatively anchored with broken terracotta pots. With too many plants to single out and always a work in progress, this is truly a gardener's garden. Don't miss it!

Criteria for Landscape Awards

The latest Golden Gardens gives criteria for a new landscape design award. I was pleased to note that the tips agree with the way I have set up the joint RGC and RHA award, especially stressing the third criteria.

1. Divide the town into sections.
2. Drive by and judge the front yards only.
3. Select the best design. Trees and shrubs are acceptable. Colorful blooms are not necessary.
4. Take a picture of the garden or landscape.
5. Create a news article to accompany the picture.
6. Ask the householder to display for a month a "Garden of the Month" sign, which includes club identity. *Ruth Vogel*

Interviews by Karen

Afternoon Tea with Jean



It was a beautiful fall day sitting in Jean Levanas' charming yard. It was difficult to believe that this graceful, lovely woman has had both a stroke and a broken hip this past year; her excellent

recovery continues. Jean and husband Leo (now deceased) have raised their family in this beautiful upper Riviera home they bought 53 years ago. A long time Riviera Garden Club member, Jean became an honorary member this year.

Born on Beryl Street in Redondo, Jean was delivered on the kitchen table by her Aunt Lillian (Dr. Whiting, a well-known local doctor). Besides her childhood home in Redondo Beach, part of Jean's growing up was done in Northern California in the ranching community of Avenal. There Jean helped around the cattle ranch, operating farm equipment and even learned to fly a plane. She later became a Cadet in the U.S. Nurse Corps, earning \$5 a month.

Future husband Leo and Jean met while she was a nursing student at UCLA. Leo was a chemist with Shell Oil. Later Jean also got a Counseling and Guidance degree at Long Beach State, going

back to work after the children were established in school. Jean was a nurse at Torrance High School for 27 years. (Her first nursing job earned her \$135 a month.)

One of the interesting events of Jean's life was to be chosen to represent the South Bay in the Mrs. America Contest. The contest involved staying a week at the Hilton Hotel in downtown Los Angeles. Judging was done by the L.A. Times Food Editors in the categories of sewing, washing and ironing, ice sculpture and table decorations, as well as planning meals. Jean's masterpiece was a low cost lasagna made out of cottage cheese instead of ricotta and using low fat cheeses. Her efforts were rewarded with a washer and dryer!

Besides being involved in the Rivera Garden Club early on (holding many positions including president), she was also on the PTA Board and was a Torrance City Library Commissioner. Jean's favorite RGC job was making the money necessary for landscaping projects for local parks and libraries.

Jean's favorite flowers are roses with her favorites being the red Sexy Remy and the lavender Sterling Silver. She says she has had a very happy life, her nursing career was very exciting and her religion (she is a member of St. Lawrence church) and family have been a blessing. Jean remembers that it was hard to recruit a Club president even in the old days, but took the position twice to keep the Club going. Thank you Jean! AND we hope you'll share that lasagna recipe with us!

Karen Lent

Philanthropic Corner

Civic Beautification

Your presidents are researching ideas for club participation in a Civic Beautification project sponsored by a community group. They looked at the 'Let's Go Native' program sponsored by the Principal Financial Group Foundation and National Garden Club featured in the October/November issue of Golden Gardens. The members at the October meeting agreed it is a noteworthy program that would require more preparation than the November 15th deadline allowed.

Sea Breeze



Treasurer's News

Standing Rule Change

"Any expenditure over \$100 must be paid directly with a Riviera Garden Club check. A follow up receipt must also be submitted" was approved in September and added to paragraph 6 of the standing rules:
June Young

Our Calendar Section

El Retiro Library Flower Arrangement Assignments

11/13/07*Shelley Lubinsky 12/10/2007 Hazel Mulqueen 1/14/2008 Charlie Sappington 2/4/2008 Pat Smith
11/26/07 Margaret Majid 12/17/2007 Adele Rockwood 1/22/2008* Toni Sargent 2/11/2008 June Stevenson*
12/3/2007 Betty Moye 1/7/2008 Sharon Shaffer 1/28/2008 Virginia Schnieder

*Denotes Monday Holiday. Please bring your arrangement on Monday (or Tuesday, if a holiday) and pick it up on Saturday. Please exchange with another member or call Pati if you can't do your week. *Pati Johnson*

Riviera Garden Club Events Please refer to your yearbook for additional details.

Nov 13 10-11:30 Rocketship Park
Nov 27 9:30-noon General Meeting, Home of Mary Varieur, 126 Calle de Arboles. Mary will demonstrate how to make concrete planters. **Hostesses:** *Aleen Houston, June Young, Carole Lefevre
Dec 04 11:00 Christmas Luncheon, South Bay Grill, 23805 Hawthorne Blvd
Dec 11& Jan 8 10-11:30 Rocketship Park
Jan 22- 9:30-noon General Meeting, Torrance Airport, "Enhancing Our Garden", Speaker: Greg George, award winning landscape designer. **Hostesses:** *Margaret Majid, Marnie Inman, Cecilia Ceasar
Feb 12 10-11.30 Rocketship Park
Feb 26 8:30 Bus trip to Rolling Greens Nursery in Culver City and Venice Sculpture Garden

District, State and Other Club Events

Dec 05 8:30 CVD Holiday Bus Tour to Rogers' Garden with lunch at the Four Crowns
Jan 17-19 CGCI Winter Board, Redding
Feb 6, 9:30-noon CVD General Meeting, SCBG, Speaker: Richard Lynch, tropical rhododendron hybridizer

CHRISTMAS PARTY

Our Annual Christmas Luncheon is open to friends and family.
Let's have a BIG turn-out to start the Holiday Season.

South Bay Grill Restaurant, 23805 Hawthorne Blvd. Torrance--(310-378-0344)
DATE: December 4, 2007 TIME: 11:00 AM until 3 PM
MENU: Three choices, on Dec. 4th

We will be entertained by "HARMONY", a singing group of carolers dressed in holiday attire. Let's get into the holiday spirit by dressing-up too!



Please RSVP to Pam at 310-548-3926