



Presidents – Wendy Tsuji & Geneva Martin
Editor – Geneva Martin

November/December 2008
Issue 5
Costa Verde District, CGCI, Pacific Region, 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:

Garden Tour Exceeds All Expectations



Diana explaining at the Historic Home

The garden tour turned out better than we could have possibly expected! We had a beautiful clear day and guests commented on how all docents were friendly and so full of smiles! Karen and all her committee chairmen did a great job. But it was the work of every one of the members and guest docents that made it a success. Thanks to you we drew a lot of interest in our club which is priceless and sold 465 tickets! The success of this event was from all your early planning and dedication. We even included comments from the CGCI President. We can't thank you members enough! *Wendy & Geneva*

Your Help is Appreciated

Yearbooks

Thanks to George and Judy Unrine for the lovely yearbooks highlighting Judy's flowers. Please see George if you didn't get one.

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 December holiday party or drop them off at Diana Crane's house before Dec. 15. Most appreciated items are individual 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. *Diana Crane*

Salvation Army Angels

Once again I have Angels for The Salvation Army's Angel Project. If you would like to help a child, you can call me to select a paper angel, buy a gift for the child described on the angel and return to me the 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 15. *Thank you, Toni Sargent*

Blue Star

After working with various city personnel, Torrance City Councilmen graciously accepted our Blue Star Highway Marker as a gift and dropped their pending liability contract with the club. This reactivated the Blue Star Committee with the Unrine's continuing as chairmen of the Marker dedication. They will coordinate with the Councilmen, Fire Department and CGCI to determine a date. They plan to share this and

more details at our January board meeting. If you are interested in assisting them with the dedication, please contact them. *Wendy & Geneva*

Membership News

Member Recognition

The Daily Breeze reported that member Ginny Schneider is one of the five members of the Los Angeles Catholic community to receive the 2009 Cardinal's Award for a distinguished record of service.

Diane Connell and her husband received a National Wildlife Federation Certified Wildlife Habitat for their yard.

Yearbook Changes

Gloria's last name is spelled Balcom.
Carole Lefevre's email is c.lefevre@earthlink.net

New Members

Gloria Rezek gloria.rezek@yahoo.com
4720 Paseo de las Tortugas 310-373-3221
Torrance, CA 90505-6336

Gloria and Wendy found they had friends and college age children in common.

Donna Crews donnacrews@verizon.net
356 Via Colusa 310-378-6694
Redondo Beach, CA

Donna's garden was a previous homeowner landscape award winner and was featured on our garden tour. She and her husband do their garden all themselves.

Dorothy Acciani dwjaxon03@yahoo.com
1704 Espinosa Circle 310-375-0890
Palos Verdes Estates, CA 90274

Dorothy is Donna's sister

Eunice Hargrove, Membership Chair

Sunshine News

Claudeene Lyon is recovering from gall bladder surgery. Margaret Majid also recovered from gall bladder surgery as well as a cataract correction.

Gloria Jacobs is home and would like visitors. Please call first.

Anne Jensen just returned from a short trip as if she didn't have a mild heart attack! Her words of wisdom: "When in doubt, check it out."

Mary Varieur is up and about with a smile again after complications from a persistent migraine.

Garden Tour Report

Thank You



Cecilia & Claudeene at the refreshment house

Please patronage our sponsors who helped make the Garden Tour possible:

BabyCakes, Bristol Farms, Chick-Fil-A, Cook n Stuff, Costco, Corner Bakery Café, Crème de la Crepe Café, H.T. Grill, Lisa's Bon Appetite, Panera Bread, Sunflower Farms, Pottery Barn, The Village Garden, Torrance Historical Society, Trader Joes and Villa Hermosa,

Very Special Thanks to: Kelly & Laura, Re-Max Realtors and, to our SUPER vendor ticket sellers Bristol Farms and Villa Hermosa!

Thank you members for all your bake goods! Perhaps they contributed in selling 18 tickets the day of the tour!

Karen Lent

Homeowners Appreciation

The Pre Tour was highly appreciated by our homeowners. The reception afterwards was relaxing. Thank you, Pati and Nils Johnson for the use of your spectacular home. Thank you Karen Lent for the champagne! At the reception tiles painted by Anne Jenson, Karen Lent and Wendy Tsuji were presented to the homeowners and to Kelly and Laura of Re-Max Realtors.

Did you see CGCI President?

Hope you had the opportunity to meet Robin Polorski, CGCI President, and her husband at our garden tour. The following is an excerpt from her Hot Flashes blog dated October 19, 2008.

“I had the pleasure of joining **Riviera GC** members on their tour of gardens in the Hollywood Riviera. What a treat! One garden had a lovely 3-foot tall stone bird bath that had been planted with succulents and edged with string of pearls, *Senecio rowleyanus*, which spilled attractively over the bird bath. At least two of the gardens on the tour displayed a certificate for landscape excellence given by the **Riviera GC** – obviously the homeowners were proud of their award because both were displayed prominently for visitors to see.”

Robin Pokorski's blog

Gifts Committee

Earlier this year volunteers formed the new Gifting Committee. They have prepared the survey included in this Newsletter. They talked to some City of Torrance departments, where they offer to explore opportunities to work together was warmly received. They had similar talks with other philanthropic groups and El Camino college. Please take the time to let us know what you think through this survey. Your input will be **very** valuable to us! Thank you! Gift Committee Members: Chairman Karen Lent, Pati Johnson, Shelley Lubinsky, Geneva Martin, Wendy Tsuji, Ruth Vogel, and June Young.

Landscape of the Month Award

Job Well Done – Ruth Vogel



Ruth Vogel

RGC: Ethel Sellars, Jean Levanas, Ginnie Schneider, Toni Sargent and Shelley Lubinsky. Ruth handed over her hat this year to me, who

RGC's Ruth Vogel has been doing the Landscape Awards for the Riviera Homeowner's Association for **seventeen** years! During that time she collaborated on the joint award with Riviera Garden Club and worked with a number of co-chairs from

promises **not** to try to break Ruth's record. I and Shelley will continue a joint collaboration for the two clubs. Ruth's expertise and excellent written reviews of the gardens will be sorely missed! Thanks to Ruth Vogel for your many years of service to the community! *Karen Lent*

November - Jim Coleman 259 Calle de Andulucia

Jim Coleman remodeled his Andulucia house last year. He completely redid the front yard and the front of the house in warm tones of beige with stacked stone planters and a white picket fence. Interestingly, instead of having the fence be a barrier to the street, it is planted on both sides, tying in the whole picture with papyrus, fountain grass and flax. The varied green palette was enhanced with dashes of color: some pink and purples including purple princess and lavender. Berry Harmon of Harmon's Landscaping helped Jim with the re-landscaping. Tenants currently occupy the property and it is a testament to the thoughtful planning and planting of this landscape project that a year later the visual is still strikingly fresh and attractive. Drive by and see this pleasant oasis in the upper Riviera.

October - Zan and Paula Huling - 23521 Susana Avenue

The original magnolia tree was planted in the parkway on Susana by the Hulings' almost 30 years ago. It thrived but eventually the sidewalk and retaining wall buckled. When the City took down the large tree (in July of this year) the Hulings' decided it was an opportune time to re-landscape. They carefully repositioned the 12 large boulders that were part of the original yard, working them into a sinewy pattern among new plantings, grass and retaining wall. The enhanced plan includes 6 Magnolia Little Gems, lirope and pitisporum and provides much more privacy than the old linear pattern did for the property. The City replaced the old Magnolia with a *Tristania Laurina*. An original olive tree still graces the edge of the yard. Small colorful plantings and orange roses add an updated flavor.

Congratulations to Zan and Paula for a re-do very well done!

Sea Breeze



Our Calendar Section

December 7 – Holiday Party Doubletree Hotel, Torrance



The Holiday party will be on a Sunday at the Doubletree Hotel, 21333 Hawthorne Blvd. from 11:30 to 2. Depending on the headcount it will be held either in the Garden Room or for an attendance of 50 plus in the Penthouse with one complementary glass of champagne for all! So if you haven't done so, please RSVP to chairman Pam Barrett and send your checks to June Young for \$30 per person. Your significant other and friends are invited too.

December-January

The plans are, by February, to vote in a Nominating Committee of three members whose responsibilities are to provide candidates for the officers of 2008-2009. General descriptions of the officers' responsibilities can be found in our By-Laws, and most officers have a Procedure book to pass on. But of greatest value is the club's willingness to help each other out, and their graciousness in accepting the occasional blunder. So speaking from experience, even those members of just a few months can be an officer!

Elections for these positions start in March and continue till our June installation. Now is the time to think about joining the Nominating Committee and even becoming an officer. Please share your interest at our January Board meeting.

Wendy & Geneva

January 27 – Riviera Garden Club General Meeting

Riviera Garden Club General Meeting at Torrance Airport Meeting Room will feature speaker Donna Leslie Dennis of the South Bay Geranium Society.

Riviera Garden Club Events

December 7 11:30-2 RGC Holiday Luncheon. Note that this is on a Sunday. Your significant other and friends invited.
January 27 9:30-noon RGC General Meeting – Airport Speaker will be Donna Leslie Dennis of the South Bay Geranium Society Meeting Room.

District, State and Other Club Events

December 3 CVD Bus Trip to Riverside to see the Christmas lights. Kathy Snider, CVD Recording Secretary has requested that you contact her at 310-932-6686 to confirm your attendance.
January 22-24 CGCI Winter Board, Ridgecrest. Please visit www.californiagardenclubs.org for details.
February 4 9:30-noon CVD General Meeting –SCBG "Floral Arranging with Gloria Aminian"