



Riviera Garden Club

Sea Breeze

Issue No. 2

October – November 2009

From our Presidents

Karen Lent & Shelley Lubinsky

Email us at president@rivieragardenclub.org

Sailing through Thanksgiving into the Holiday dash, we reflect on how fast this year has gone but what fun it's been! We have definitely achieved our goal of more "garden power!"

Long Beach Garden Club Prez Kitty Guzman attended our September "Veggie" meeting/pot luck. She later bragged about you to the Costa Verde District Meeting -- your enthusiasm and the events and tasks we/you are undertaking. Humbleness aside, altogether, what a great Club are we!

Power of Art is behind us and while we didn't know exactly what we were getting into, the "stretch" and the new experiences were great. Our imaginative and well-executed "Flowers imitate art" vignettes were new to the art festival. And many people said our little "green" corner (below) was their favorite and most creative of the event! Thanks to our RGC "artistes" for their back-breaking work and creativity: Pati, Mary, Toni, Judy, George, Irma, Lola, Geneva, Anne, Claudeene, Bobbie, Cavin, Ruth, Alberta (Gary), Wendy (Chris), Shelley (Mike), and Karen (Keith). Special thanks to Cathie Goldberg!

Wishing you a blessed Holiday Season and a new year filled with joy, love and laughter! *Shelley & Karen*



Upcoming Events

The RGC Annual Holiday Party

We will be returning to the Double Tree Penthouse for this special event on Sunday, December 6, 2009, from 11 – 2. Entertainment & lunch is \$33. Reminder: (Reservations/checks to Pam by November 29). You are encouraged to bring your spouse or friend. This is a fun way to start the Holiday Season!



RGC bus trip to Rancho Los Alamitos (see pg. 4)

Salvation Army Angel Project

Once again we are taking part in the Angel Tree Project. This wonderful program to help children in need during the holiday season is sponsored by HIS House, the Social Service Division of the Torrance Corps of The Salvation Army.

Angel cards (which you can obtain from Toni Sargent) will contain particulars about a specific child, including the gift that they would like. Bring your wrapped gift (with the lower part of the tag attached) to the Holiday Party or deliver to Toni by Friday, December 11. Please let Toni know you would like to receive an angel (or two, or?).

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Alternatively, members can bring a wrapped gift for a child to the Holiday Party with a label indicating age/gender appropriateness of gift.

Harbor UCLA men's holiday gifts

Everyone remembers children, women and families at the holidays – but not necessarily men alone. This is our annual outreach to support these “forgotten” men who are undergoing rehab or lengthy hospitalizations.

They need pajamas, sweat pants and shirts, tee shirts, underwear, socks, games, notebooks, pens, books and toiletries.

All items should be new/unused. Please deliver them to Diana Crane by December 15 – or bring them to our Holiday Party.

In appreciation

We ask and we receive! Thank you to RGC members who raised their hands for important open positions:

- **Gloria Balcom** is our new **Newsletter Chairman**. This is her first issue – with a new one planned for every other month.
- Our new **Historian, Alberta Brice**, will be recording our events. She is already holding the important position of Power and Youth Gardening. We so appreciate you!

Congratulations

October birthdays

Kay Kanuit	Margaret Majid
Beebe Moorhead	Karen Lent
Sheila Kutkus	

November birthdays

Marilyn Barker	Geneva Martin
Fuzzy Ishikawa	Charlie Sappington
Pati Johnson	Ruth Vogel
Diane Connell	Shelley Lubinsky
Marilyn Rubin	

Waterwise alert (help the environment)

Please bring water to all RGC events in your own washable/reusable bottles.

“Guerilla Gardener” unmasked

Like the Lamp Post that was a major landmark in the country of Narnia (from the book by C.S. Lewis), the Hollywood **Riviera Lamp Post stands alone. It welcomes visitors** at the five-way intersection of Via Monte d’Oro, Camino de las Colinas and Camino del Campo (just off of PV Blvd. and Catalina Ave.).

For many years, it was tended by Morgan Moore. But, with no water source the lamp Post shared its small space with a few scrawny hawthorn bushes and an occasional garage sale sign.

Today, it is a showplace of bougainvillea and white flowers, mostly potted chrysanthemums.



September Landscape Award: The lamp post “Guerilla Gardener”

Cymbidium orchids in Spanish Moss grace the pole.

The small space was uniquely orchestrated by a nearby neighbor who previously held the title of “Guerilla Gardener.” The Riviera Homeowners Assn. and the Riviera Garden Club are proud to unmask the previously unknown gardener. His name is Cavin Shorter.

Cavin is a local resident who grew up and went to school in our area. He is a property manager and is VERY community oriented. Hurray! Thank you, Cavin, for adding a touch of whimsy and beauty – and making it fun to drive by.

“Sweet flowers are slow and weeds make haste”
-William Shakespeare

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

December 5, 2009. RGC fundraiser/garage sale at 162 Via Monte d'Oro (Karen's daughter's house corner of Calle Miramar – one street from lamp post). Clean out your closets and bring Christmas items you want to get rid of. Drop-off Sat. morning early (or in driveway on Fri.) Optional: stay to help.

December 6. RGC Holiday Party, from 11 am – 2 pm at the Double Tree Penthouse (located at 21333 Hawthorne Blvd. in Torrance). Entertainment & lunch \$33. **Reservations/checks to Pam by Nov. 29.**

December 11. Wrapped gifts to Toni. (See details on pg. 1)

December 15. Harbor UCLA men's holiday gifts. Due to Diana Crane, or bring to our Holiday Party. (See details on pg. 2).

January 26, 2010. General Meeting, Torrance Airport, January 26. Member Sharing Day. Contact Marilyn, Carole or Cecilia know if you would like to share something

January Bunco [TBD]. October Bunco at Charlie's was a huge success, and LOTS of fun. (Trudy was the grand winner and Marilyn won the boobie prize.) We'll do it again in January, so let Charlie, Shelley or Karen know if you'd like to join in!

February 18 – March 4, 2010. Philadelphia Garden Show at Lowe's Hotel (breakfasts and 2- day entry to show plus tour and behind-the-scenes look). Approx. \$500 for doubles/4 nights. Does not include air fare. Contact Karen for details and/or to reserve.

RGC Board Meeting: Jan. 19, 2010 – Geneva Martin.

Costa Verde District Meetings: Dec. 2, Garden Art w/catered lunch; Feb. 3, Speaker, Veggie gardening.

Costa Verde District Board Meeting: Jan. 27 @ So. Coast Botanic Gardens, (social) 9:30 am, (busn.) starts at 10:00.

Community news

El Retiro Library basket planting

Congratulations on a big success! About 20 people attended and enjoyed this RGC community outreach – creating a myriad of beautiful, colorful baskets. This is a return engagement for our enthusiastic Chair, Pati Johnson, who is already planning another project for this Spring! (Start saving your baskets for her now.).

Thanks so much, Pati – as well as Wendy, Geneva and Lynne for helping and encouraging others.

An eclectic oasis

Bill and Josh Cunningham-Corso have lived in their contemporary/Spanish style house on Via Malaga for two years. Their newly-built home had contemporary landscaping. Since then, Bill has created an eclectic oasis of colorful plants, trees, and bushes highlighted by beautiful iron work at windows, door and gate.



Oct. Landscape Awards: Bill & Josh Cunningham-Corso

The colorful terraced hillside is planted with roses and geraniums and dotted with a Japanese maple and palms.

Their front yard terrace (a perfect place to watch the sunset) has a perimeter planted with privet bushes for privacy. The hillside along the driveway and house has been planted with rusty colored sedums and other plantings to protect the slope.

Bill (and his 12 brothers and sisters) grew up in the Seaside neighborhood. Josh is an Ohio transplant.

We are growing! (Year Book updates)

A warm welcome to our new members:

- Kathryn Joiner (310) 373-3023
165 Vista del Parque,
Redondo Beach, CA 90277
kathryn.joiner@tmmc.com
Birthday: 9/26 Spouse: James
A long-time Riviera gardener.
- Don O'Donal (310) 834-9745
413 E. Brodrick
Carson, CA 90734-1308
Spouse: Diane
Gardening since his WWII Victory garden.
- Ann Gilbreth Pfister (979) 224-2780
19406 Beckworth Ave.
Torrance, CA 90503-1321
Happy to have her back.

New committee chairs

- **Newsletter:** Gloria Balcom
- **Historian:** Alberta Brice

Updates/corrections

- Toni.sargent@verizon.net
- kkanuit@roadrunner.com
- Lola Ungar (spelling). Spouse: Marty

Field trip

October bus trip was TERRIFIC

The Japanese Garden at Cal State Long Beach is gorgeous (and who knew it was there?) And, although you may have been to Rancho Los Alamitos before, we're sure you didn't have the great tour or terrific lunch we experienced during our visit. Thank you, Marilyn, Carole and Cecilia.



Stokes Aster (*Stokesia laevis*)

October flower of the month.



The beautiful Japanese Gardens at CSULB

National news

Yellow, Yellow Everywhere

The National Garden Club's project this year has been to spread yellow daffodils across our great land in honor of all who love to garden and to those who are no longer able to physically do it.

The RGC Beautification Committee has done its small bit by planting an array of bulbs under the cherry trees in front of the El Retiro Library. It will be so fun to see the little flowers pop up in the Spring – and bring a note of cheer to everyone using the library and park.

Let the yellow put a smile on your face and joy in your heart!

Did you know? A narcissus is a daffodil. News to us.

“Every gardener knows that under the cloak of winter lies a miracle – a seed waiting to sprout, a bulb opening to the light, a bud straining to unfurl. And the anticipation nurtures our dream.”

- Barbara Winkler



Matilija poppy (*Romneya coulteri*)

November flower of the month.

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