



Riviera Garden Club

Sea Breeze

Issue No. 4

February 2010 – March 2010

From our Presidents

Karen Lent & Shelley Lubinsky

Email us at president@rivieragardenclub.org

Over 100 years ago, the eloquent American Indian, Chief Seattle, said: "We didn't inherit this planet from our ancestors; we borrowed it from our children." His famous speech was quoted at the first Earth Day 100 years after he spoke it.

Earth Day was established in 1992 and is now recognized all over the world. It is observed on April 22, the birthday of Arbor Day founder Julius Morton.

Morton's first Arbor Day in 1872 in Nebraska saw thousands of trees planted. While in California we celebrate Arbor Day in March, other states differ depending on the arrival date of Spring.

Teddy Roosevelt called the forests the "Lungs of our Land" and established our country's first National Park, Crater Lake, in 1902.

We recently read about David de Rothschild's plan to set sail to the Pacific Trash Vortex at the end of March in his special 60-foot catamaran (named Plastiki). The strange looking boat is made entirely of plastic bottles. His aim is to bring attention to the horrible problem of plastic ocean pollution.

RGC joins with other environmentalists current and past to honor and protect our environment. Please spend some time on April 22nd picking some public weeds or trash. Yes, one person can make a difference, but together we can do much more to improve the world we leave to our children and grandchildren.

Happy Spring! *Shelley & Karen*

"Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much."

-Helen Keller

February Landscape Award

The Gaffareys have been reworking their hillside front yard, stairs and entrance for several months with outstanding results. What was once ivy and hedges is now an inviting terrain of low water landscaping including flax, lavender and blue fescue.

A front staircase of outdated pebbly concrete is now a major focal point with gorgeous Spanish tile and wrought iron railings.

A landscaped mid level contains plants such as a kumquat bush and strawberry guava in beautiful and unusual pottery. A lovely landscaped fountain area claims its own special spot. More wrought iron sets off the house with planter boxes, a striking



The Gaffarey's on Via los Miradores

entry light, with potted succulents dotting the space. Over the past seven years (first as newlyweds and now as the parents of two small children) they have been refreshing/remodeling their home mostly on their own (with a brief consult with a landscape designer friend). Thank you Gaffareys for your hard work so that we can all enjoy it by just driving by!

Work Party at Walteria Library

Walteria Library landscaping was refurbished courtesy of RGC and a donation from Torrance Friends of the Library. Reopening on Mar. 4 included a gorgeous flower arrangement by Lynne Stern.

Pictured below from left: Geneva Martin, Phil (the Walteria Librarian), Sherwin Rubin, Toni Sargent, Keith Lent and Wendy Tsuji. Helpers not pictured: Marilyn Rubin, Gloria Balcom, Pati Johnson and Karen Lent. Thanks to Pati J for her generous donation to this project.



Designs for Dining

Songbirds of the World was our table theme at the March Designs for Dining at St. Francis Episcopal Church. Although there were so many beautifully decorated tables, many said they enjoyed our table the best!

We used Adele Rockwood's Wedgewood Songbird plates as the impetus for our table design. We also used special Herend miniature - porcelain and bamboo gold flatware shared by Cavin Shorter.

Beautiful and unusual woven flower arrangements were done by flower arranger extraordinaire Toni Sargent.

Thanks to all the RGC help: including Marybeth Muir, Toni Sargent, Gay Hargrave, Barbara Ott, Alberta Brice, Mary Varieur, Wendy Tsuji, Phyllis Valentin, Geneva Martin, Pam Barrett, June Stevens & Ginny Schneider.



RGC Members from left to right: June Young, Karen Lent, Mary Varieur, Shelley Lubinsky, Alberta Brice.

Upcoming events

RGC General Meeting on March 23 will feature an Organic Gardening lecture by Gisele Sconiger of Kellogg Garden Products. Her talk will begin at 10 am, with our General Meeting to follow.

Succulent Workshop, Tuesday, March 30. Bring succulent cuttings & nicer pots for the plant sale. Little planters are made for our men's philanthropy at UCLA Harbor Hospital.

Plant Sale at Charlie Sappington's, April 24 (Saturday). We will be setting up and pricing the three days before the sale on the 21st, 22nd, & 23rd. Bring potted cuttings/propagations. Let's out-do ourselves for student scholarships.

Our Bus Trip April 29 will be on THURSDAY rather than Tuesday. We will visit the serene Lake Shrine in Pacific palisades and the Getty Villa w/tour. \$42 includes lunch. RSVP and checks to Marilyn.

RGC General Meeting May 25. Starting with a brief meeting at the Airport, we will then car share to two private P.V. gardens. Landscape Architect Robin Benezera will talk to us about her designs. We will then visit the Vintage Tea Room in Long Beach (optional) -- \$32 for lunch. RSVP to Marilyn.

Garden Party. South Coast Botanic Garden's 50th Birthday celebration begins on Fri. night (April 15) with a party and plant pre-sale and continues on Sat. (April 16) with a hosting of Club table.

"Suburbia is where the developer bulldozes out the trees, the names the streets after them."
-- Bill Vaughn

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March 23 @ 10 am. RGC Gen. Mtg. Organic Gardening speaker Gisele Schoniger of Kellogg Garden Products.

March 25, pm Bunco.

March 30, 10 am. Succulent Workshop at Diane Crane's. Bring nice terra cotta pots for plant sale.

March 31, 2 pm. CVD Landscape Design Study Program exploratory mtg. at SCBG. RSVP Geneva.

March 31, 9:30 am. Costa Verde District Board Meeting, South Coast Botanic Garden.

April 16 & 17 South Coast Botanic Gardens Anniversary/RGC Table.

April 20 @ 9:30. RGC Board, Marilyn R's.

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

April 22 – 25. South Coast Plaza Garden Show.

April 22. CVD Bus trip to South Coast Plaza.

April 22, pm. Bunco.

April 24. RGC Plant Sale (at Charlie's).

April 29 (Thurs.). RGC Bus Trip to Getty & Self Realization. Bus trip & lunch \$42. Checks: Marilyn R.

May 14. Newsletter deadline.

May 18. RGC Board Meeting – Alberta'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 8. Mad Hatter Luncheon

June 23. CVD End-of-Year Luncheon & Photo Contest. SCBG.

Congratulations

March Birthdays

| | | | |
|------------------|----|-----------------|----|
| Cecilia Ceasar | 1 | Alberta Brice | 26 |
| Gloria Rezek | 8 | Edith Dees | 26 |
| Sharon Ratterree | 9 | Eunice Hargrave | 28 |
| Jean Winter | 13 | Carol Lefevre | 31 |
| Toni Sargent | 20 | | |

April Birthdays

| | | | |
|---------------|----|--------------|----|
| Allison Jones | 4 | Betty Moye | 19 |
| Pat Reid | 7 | Phyllis Roth | 27 |
| Pam Barrett | 11 | | |

Member News & Tidbits

Member News

We sadly learned of long-time member **Ann Greenway's** passing last month. Ann had a beautiful garden which she shared on one of RGC's garden tours. Memorial service is pending.

It was GREAT having **Gloria and Ernie Jacobs** join us at our last meeting!

Thanks to Ruth Brooker (CVD President and San Pedro GC member) for joining our last meeting to talk about the District-hosted Landscape Design Study School program (perhaps this coming fall).

Yum to the Tum. Thanks to new member **Pitsa Captain** for her February Cooking Program. What a FABULOUS, delicious treat PLUS we learned so much about healthy Mediterranean food and cooking!

Change of Date: Pitsa's upcoming cooking classes through Torrance Unified School District (Hamilton school) have been changed to **April 14-May 19.**

Welcome home from the dazzling Philadelphia Garden Show to Pati Johnson, Jean Winters, Mary Varieur and Karen Lent.

New Members

A warm welcome to new members:

- Michelle Sagolla 310-373-7913
2208 Via Acalones
PVE, CA 90274
michelle.sagolla@gmail.com
Birthday: 11/13 Spouse: Donald
- Allison Jones 310-977-8797
2054 Reynosa Dr.
Torrance, CA 90501
ajones003@socal.rr.com
Birthday: 4/4
- Sharon Ratterree 310-539-8641
26314 Monte Vista Ave.
Lomita, CA 90717
sacat4@aol.com
Birthday: 3/9

Community News

Arbor Day

At a ceremony on March 11, poems were read by students and a tree planting commenced.



RGC talked about Arbor Day and the purple Crepe Myrtle that was ceremoniously planted. A plaque with RGC's name and date of the planting will be placed at the new tree site in the grassy area in front of the school. Nancy Weaver chaired this event.

National's Golden Days

RGC participated in NGC's efforts to promote the planting of daffodils by planting bulbs in the three brick planters under the now-blooming cherry trees at El Retiro Park. Our **white narcissus** bloomed prolifically in January. **Yellow and white daffodils** are blooming now in the foreground planter. The third circle, planted with **freesias**, is now sending out spikes but not yet blooming.



RGC's yellow and white daffodils are now blooming in El Retiro Park.

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

Editor: Gloria Balcom
246 Paseo de Granada
Redondo Beach, CA 90277

