



Riviera Garden Club

Sea Breeze

Issue No. 8

December 2010 – January 2011

From our Presidents

Karen Lent & Shelley Lubinsky

Email us at president@rivieragardenclub.org

Tradition says we should sit down every 365 days and reflect on our life, especially our bad habits and vow to kick them and start life anew. Did you make any resolutions this year? They might have been many of the same ten that everyone else makes (lose weight, stop smoking, enjoy life more, etc., etc.). Actually, resolution research has revealed that only 12% of resolution makers achieve their goals.

Pragmatically, someone said that the only resolution that one can be guaranteed to keep is to NOT make any! Whether you've made resolutions that you've already broken, didn't make any, vaguely thought about, or, are still hanging in there on them - we wish you the best in 2011!

We look forward to the rest of this garden club year with you all and the many RGC activities, speakers and events in store. Resolutions usually include: learning new things, making new friends and maybe helping make the world a little better place. And isn't that just exactly what RGC members are doing? Does that make us part of the 12% of achievers? We think it does! VERY Happy New Year to All!

Best, *Karen & Shelley*

"The love of gardening is a seed that once sown never dies." Gertrude Jekyll*

*Gertrude Jekyll (1843-1932) was an influential British garden designer who created over 400 gardens in the UK in an "impressionist" style.

RGC Designates Honorary Member

Irma Maggio joined RGC in 1967 – 45 years ago! She is a former RGC President and has held many other positions in the club.

At our Holiday Luncheon Irma was honored for being designated an Honorary RGC Member in 2010.



Irma Maggio, Honorary RGC Member

Upcoming Events

San Francisco Flower Show and Filoli Gardens

Plans are underway for an exciting trip for the Flower Show and Gardens, March 23 – 26. If you are interested in attending these events, please let Karen know ASAP.

(Upcoming Events – continued from Page 1)

CA Garden Club Convention

This even is to be held at the Sonoma Wine Country Doubletree Hotel in Rohnert Park, CA on **May 15-19**, a 1-hour scenic drive north of Golden Gate Bridge.

Book early for CGCI room rate of \$99 by phoning (800) 222-TREE. For more information, call Cathy Biggins (707) 894-7478.

NGC Convention

The National Garden Club Convention will take place in Washington, DC, **May 27-31** at the J.W. Marriott Hotel, 1331 Pennsylvania Ave. NW.

For best rates, register early at (800) 266-9432. Registration Code: National Garden Clubs. Reservation Discount dates: May 24 to 30, 2011.

Festive Holiday Luncheon

RGC members, spouses and friends enjoyed a great time hosted again by Pam and Jim – and entertained by the Senility Barbershop Quartet.

Members generously donated more than ever this year for the Salvation Army Angels and Harbor UCLA Hospital Men's Philanthropy.

Over 45 children received gifts via RGC's Holiday Angels gifts. We were responsible for a lot of smiles. Thank you, RGC – you're the BEST!



Gifts to warm a few men's hearts at Christmas

And thank you, Toni Sargent (Angel Chair) and Allison Jones (Men's Holiday Philanthropy Chair.)

Holiday Luncheon donation thank you

Nature's Footprint for their Worm Factory 360 (raffle). This terrific odorless and lightweight model is for those who don't have ample space for composting.

Hennessey's Grill, Torrance Hospital Health Links Products, and Armstrong Garden Center for their generous gift certificates

November 2010 Landscape Award

An enthusiastic self-taught gardener, Anne has lived in her Encanto home for 30 years. With only the help of her gardener, this 5' bundle of energy has re-landscaped to get every detail 'just right.'

Her meandering garden path leads to a small stone bench perfectly located to enjoy the fragrance. She treasures her Michilia Champaca (white jade) trees – the origins of Joy Perfume.



Anne Gu and family at 535 Camino de Encanto

Dramatically placed boulders are interspersed with blue glass and palm trees create a focal point.

Anne's love of color is obvious in the blue hibiscus, purple veronica and wisteria –as well as in her flowering trees and plants from Asia.

Landscape Design Study Program

Course 1 of this in-depth program completed in Nov. – fun, hard and oh so educational.

Course 2 is scheduled at SCBG on Jan. 27 & 28, Course 3 for Mar. 17-18, and Course 4 will take place on Sept. 22-23.

Each \$90 course runs 8 am to 4 pm. Details & reg. form at www.californiagardenclubs.com or contact Alexis Slafer at 323-292-6657 (aslafer@ca.rr.com).

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2011 Highlights

- Jan. 27 & 28:** Landscape Design Study Program, Course #2, SCBG, 8 am – 4 pm.
- Feb. 2:** CVD Gen. Mtg., Speaker: South Bay Environmental Center, SCBG, 9:30 am.
- Feb. 15:** RGC Board Mtg. 9:30 am, Mary's.
- Feb 22:** RGC Gen. Mtg., Torrance Airport. Speaker: Dylan Ellis, Green Leaf Hydroponics.
- Mar. 4 & 5:** Designs for Dining at St. Francis Church.
- Mar. 6 – 13:** Philadelphia Garden Show.
- Mar. 6-14:** Arbor Day.
- Mar, 15:** RGC Board Meeting, 9:30 am, Charlie's.
- Mar. 17 & 18:** Landscape Design Study Program, Course #3, SCGB, 8 am – 4 pm.
- Mar. 22:** RGC General Meeting, 9:30 am, Torrance Airport. Speaker: Chef Debbi Dubbs of Deb's Kitchen Pantry – a garden produce cooking demo.
- Mar. 23 – 26:** San Francisco flower Show & Filoli Gardens. Contact Karen ASAP.
- Mar. 30:** CVD Board Meeting, SCBG, 9:30 am.
- Mar. 31:** Bunco (details tbd).
- Apr. ?:** Succulent workshop (details tbd)
- Apr. 12:** New member tea (details tbd).
- Apr. 19:** RGC Board Mtg., 9:30 am, Marilyn R's.
- April 21:** CVD Bus Trip, TBA (details TBD).
- April 22:** Earth Day
- April 26:** RGC Gen. Mtg.: Member Sharing (garden info). Slide presentations of Philadelphia Garden Show, Chelsea Flower Show & Filoli Gardens.
- April 28 – May 1:** South Coast Plaza Flower Show.

Congratulations

December Birthdays

Julie Blake	05	Irma Maggio	21
Trudy Dosserich	05	Diana Crane	23
Lola Ungar	10	Claudeene Lyon	30

January birthdays

Jean Vasques	02	Mary Varieur	16
Jeannie Brown	05	Bertie Wood	16
Don O'Donal	08		

Member News & Tidbits

Happy Anniversary

Edith Dees, 50 years: What a rarity in club membership. Shelley & Karen enjoyed a holiday visit with her. Edith is quite fine, but doesn't go out often. She is our heroine!

Ethel Sellars, 40 years: Congratulations – and Wow!
Pam Barrett, 10 years & Volunteer Extraordinaire!

New Member Tea

If you are new to RGC since last year, please save the date, April 12 for tea. Details will follow.

Committee Updates

Designs for Dining, March 4-5: Contact Shelley if you would like to be involved.

Green Thumb Work Parties: Contact Karen if you are interested in helping us maintain community landscaping, such as the Torrance Marker and Walteria Library.

Centennial Committee will meet in April or May. Call Karen or Shelley if you'd like to be in on this historical project.

History Committee is forming to consolidate RGC history, paperwork & mementos. Call Shelley or Karen to help.

RGC Plant Sale is coming up May 21. Time to start thinking and working on some pots, seedlings, and cuttings.

New Members

Please update your yearbooks to include the following new members:

- Emily Lacina 310-378-3267
1709 Addison Rd.
Palos Verdes Est., 90274-1812
elacina@cox.net
Birthday: 08/14 Spouse: William
- Rita Wagstaff 310371-4789
2112 Warfield Ave., #8
Redondo Beach, 90278-1432
jrwagstaff@verizon.net
Birthday: 02/22 Spouse: John

Local Student “Goes for the Gold”

South High School freshman Anna Spallino was born and raised in the Hollywood Riviera, but she is making an impact across the globe. She launched Riviera Cake Fairies as part of her Girl Scout Gold Award project (the highest award given to Girl Scouts who create long-term service projects).

Each of her ‘from scratch’ made-to-order cake costs \$30, with 100% of the proceeds donated to Free Wheelchair Mission (providing wheelchairs to the disabled in third-world countries). Anna’s goal is to raise enough money to send 50 wheelchairs to South America.

For details (or to order a cake), contact Anna at Spallino4@yahoo.com or 310-375-9234. You can read more about this amazing young woman in the recent issue of *Igor’s Riviera Real Estate News*.

Gardening tidbits & updates

Bob Papp of So. Coast Dahlia Society collects pots (clay plastic or whatever) for the Veterans Garden at the Veterans Hospital in Long Beach. To donate, call 310-833-6823.

December 2010 Landscape Award

Steve and Marianne Rushton have been selected for their innovative slope approach! While the house address is on Via Lado, the slope can be seen at Calle de Primera and Bluff St.

Steve has taken out much of the ice plant and replaced it with whatever he finds at garage sales. The results are very eclectic, with lots of garden art, cactus and succulent.



Steve and Marianne Rushton showcase their Via Lado slope
Photo by Julian Chasin

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

