



Riviera Garden Club

Sea Breeze

Issue No. 10

April – May 2011

From our Presidents

Karen Lent & Shelley Lubinsky

Email us at president@rivieragardenclub.org

We LOVE this picture - isn't this what we'd do if we could! That's why garden club people, guerilla gardeners and everyone who plants a bulb – or nurtures a flower, plant, bush or tree – is special.



We make the world a better, a greener, and a prettier place!

We appreciate all our RGC members plus our new members AND the RGC Board members, both the returning ones and the new ones! Thank you for all!

We can't wait to see what you do with your decorated hat at Madhatters in June.

Have a great summer and as the song goes ..."we'll see you in September!"

Best!

Shelley & Karen



Help Wanted: Newsletter Editor. It's great fun! Are there any jobs or committees you are interested in for next year? If so, call Karen or Shelley.

Volunteers don't get paid – not because they're worthless, but because they're priceless!

Filoli in April

Tulips, Tulips everywhere!

The RGC Group at Filoli included Annie Crookshand (Virginia's Schneider's daughter), Geneva Martin, Marilyn Rubin, Carole Lefevre, Karen Lent, Virginia Schneider, Mary Varieur, Charlie Sappington, Dodie Arterburn (Karen's friend), and Emily Lacina.

After a month of relentless rain, mudslides and water spouts, the Bay Area weather cleared for two glorious hours so that RGC visitors could tour the beautiful gardens. Thank you! We also timed it perfectly to enjoy their monthly tea. We then went on to the San Francisco Flower Show. A great time was had by all.



Member Sharing Event

Member Sharing in April gave us an armchair visit to the Philadelphia Flower Show and Longwood Gardens (Thanks, Pati Johnson!), Filoli Gardens in the Bay Area, an artist's garden in New Zealand (Thanks, Marilyn Rubin!), a Wildlife Habitat Garden in Torrance (Thanks, Diane Connell!) and to Nepal courtesy of new member Pramila Dugel who also told us about her book called "Family Secrets."

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Member Sharing (continued from page 1)

Eunice Hargrove gently suggested what invasive plants NOT to grow and what we could plant instead. We learned a lot and it was so enjoyable! Thanks, everybody!



Toni Sargent, RGC Flower Arranger Extraordinaire, copies a flower arrangement of protea and palm that we saw at the San Francisco Flower Show.

A Visit to Sharon Ratterree’s Garden

RGC member Sharon Ratterree invited us to visit her lovely garden in May. It was a beautiful Spring day and we couldn’t find a weed or leaf out of place! We did find beautiful flowers, plants, garden art, refreshments. We also learned a lot from Sharon, who teaches a class at South Coast Botanic Gardens.

She has a very creative touch. She has organized her large yard into various “rooms” with a unique personality all their own. Thank you so much Sharon for sharing!

RGC Succulent Workshop

This April event produced over 100 succulent dish gardens for our philanthropy to cheer up UCLA Harbor Hospital patients.

Thank you Diana Crane, Chairperson of this annual event – as well as all those who came to help.

New RGC Members April Tea

We were happy to celebrate all our new members at a special tea on April 12. New members include: Lynn Fernandez, Laurie Vailliant, Jeannie Brown, Jacquie Lawlor, Pramila Dugel, Dina Wiley, Connie Cohn, Emily Lacina, Gene Hasson, Ginni Newman, Toni Ziegler and Rita Wagstaff. Welcome!

Upcoming Meetings and Events

Madhatters

On June 14 (11:30 am) at the Bluewater Grill in Redondo Beach Marina, RGC will celebrate another Madhatters. Don’t forget, there will be prizes for the most **beautiful, comical** and **green** hats. Send your RSVP and check (\$32) to Gay Hargrove by June 10.

Dues are due

Please remit your 2011-2012 dues to June Young ASAP so that she can close the books – and turn them over to our new Treasurer, Geneva Martin. We also want to make certain that we get you in the new Yearbook!

RGC mourns a loss

Regrettably we report that Jean Levanas passed away on May 13, 2011. An RGC member for 25 years and was a President for three terms. she was a vivacious, gracious woman who did A LOT for the Club. A tall and attractive mother of four, Jean was a nurse and had been a Mrs. America contestant. She was the Torrance High School Nurse for 30 years. She grew up rurally and could fly a plane! Besides gardening and family, she loved the library most of all. Sadly, Jean never fully recovered from a stroke a couple of years ago. She died unexpectedly at home. Our condolences to the Levanas family that includes ten grandchildren and one great grandchild.



Gardeners know the best dirt!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June 1: CVD Installation Luncheon, 9:30 am.

June 5 -11: National Garden Week.

June 6, 7:30 pm. SCBG: CA Native Plant Society talk on " How to keep them (natives) alive after you plant them.

June 11 – 12 Fuchsia Festival: SCBG from 10-4 pm. Free to SCBG members or \$8/\$6 seniors.

June 14: RGC Mad Hatter Installation Lunch, 11:30 at Blue Water Grill. (Centennial Meeting to follow.)

September 20: RGC Board Meeting.

September 27: Welcome back RGC Potluck & Cooking Demo.

Happy Birthday to Long Beach Garden Club. They are celebrating 75 years young!

Congratulations

April Birthdays

Allison Jones	04	Betty Moye	19
Pat Reid	07	Phyllis Roth	27
Pam Barrett	11		

May Birthdays

Cavin Shorter	02	Toni Ziegler	25
Marybeth Muir	11	Tecki Poletti	26
Lynne Stern	14		

New Members

Please welcome (and update your yearbooks to include):

- Lynn Fernandez 310-729-5973
3352 Via La Selva
PVE 90274-1002
lynn.fernandez2003@cox.net

A New Addition

CONGRATULATIONS to RGC Member Gina Bush & family! Welcome to the world new baby, **Marin Victoria Ann**, born April 30. Gina says she is a beautiful little love bug!

Member News & Tidbits

Have you seen the Riviera "lamppost garden" recently? It's evolved into a very pretty pinkness. Many thanks to guerrilla gardener Cavin Shorter!

Fundraiser

RGC is selling Atlas gardening gloves for \$6 (we see them other places for \$7). They are GREAT gloves and a wonderful, colorful addition to a flower basket gift, etc. See Toni Sargent or Geneva Martin to purchase. They have already SOLD a hundred.

Sunshine

Unfortunately, Jean Winter, Barbara Bratcher Ott and Pitsa Captain have all recently undergone surgery. We wish them all speedy recoveries.

Thank You

Thanks to Membership Chair Wendy Tsuji for organizing the RGC New Member Tea. Marilyn Rubin graciously hosted with much assistance from Alberta Brice. We appreciate you ladies for a lovely and delicious event! (We hear Trump's Restaurant wants to hire you to do Sunday Brunch!)

New Slate of Officers for 2011-2012

Co-Presidents: Karen Lent/Shelley Lubinsky
1st Vice President - Programs: Marilyn Rubin/ Carol Lefevre/Cecilia Cesear
2nd Vice President – Yearbook: Gay Hargrave
3rd Vice President – Membership: Alberta Brice
Co-Secretaries: Gloria Rezek/Nancy Weaver
Treasurer: Geneva Martin.

We will miss those going off the Board: June Young and Wendy Tsuji – we so appreciate all you've done for RGC. Welcome to new Board members: Gay Hargrave and Alberta Brice.

Centennial Committee Has Second Meeting

The Committee has decided to focus on the Riviera Historic Homes for a garden/home tour next year to celebrate Torrance's Centennial. If you would like to attend the next meeting and/or be part of this exciting committee, please call Karen.

April 2011 Landscape Award



Bobbie & Paul Davison – 910 Calle Miramar

There are several levels to the Davison front yard and they are planted with fox gloves and spring blooms - a VERY colorful and delightful sight. Hundreds of bulbs have been planted: tulips, ranunculus and narcissus. There are also roses and cymbidiums with dahlias coming.

Recent homebuyers of this property on Calle Miramar, Bobbie and Paul Davison are avid gardeners and won a Landscape Award at their former home on Calle de Madrid. Bobbie thinks it's interesting that Paul is partially color blind and can't

see all the colors he's involved in cultivating. Paul also grows orchids and is a member of the Orchid Society. Bobbie is a watercolor artist and also a RGC member.

Thank you Davisons for a great spring treat!

Wow – Scholarship Funds Secured!

Thanks to Charlie Sappington and all the RGC members who helped propagate, pot, set up, bake and sell at the May 21 & 22 Plant Sale (we added a day). We topped last year's record! Total sales were \$1,500 and ALL this money goes to Scholarship. Lucky recipients can thank ALL of you for helping making these funds a reality!

Organic or Synthetic Fertilizer?

We often hear this question asked. Basically, we understand that the plants won't know the difference EXCEPT that organics are a slow release fertilizer. Organics are also "green" and build up the soil structure and improve drainage, etc.

Synthetics provide instant nourishment and are good for flowers in containers. Synthetics don't smell and they are consistent (with measurements listed on the container such as 10-10-10, or?), whereas you can't be as precise with organics.

Because gardeners are always looking to improve the soil, organics win this contest.

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

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