



Riviera Garden Club

Sea Breeze

Volume 58, Issue No. 2

March - April 2015

From our President

I had a glorious trip to the Philadelphia Flower Show. I saw **snow falling** for the first time in my life. I was never cold because I followed the advice of friends who said to “dress in layers”. The “layers” were a little troublesome when we visited Independence Hall and the Liberty Bell in Philadelphia. The guards insisted on checking my body all the way down to the skin. Every time I left a security check point, it took a very **l o n g** time to reassemble my warm layers. On the way home from Philadelphia, I travelled to Dallas, Texas and rented a car to visit family. The Dallas weather was sometimes snowy and freezing and sometimes foggy and temperate. Again, my “layers” of clothing kept me very warm so I opened the car window as I drove on icy slushy streets to my sister’s residence one morning. **SURPRISE!** A car passing on my left splashed icy water into my vehicle and onto my face. I laughed hysterically! My sister told me that is why people drive with their windows closed in the winter. I built my **FIRST SNOWMAN** ever in Dallas with my young nephews. I stomped in fresh snow and splashed in slushy puddles with my travel boots. It was great fun!



RGC friends, I am back! I am healthy! I am ready to continue working on Riviera Garden Club issues and activities.

Marilyn Rubin

Philadelphia Flower Show

RGC members **Pati Johnson, Geneva Martin, Charlie Sappington, Kathryn Joiner and Marilyn Rubin** spent four days visiting the Philadelphia Flower Show, Longwood Gardens and The Barnes Foundation art museum. **Pati Johnson** has worked as a volunteer “stager” at the flower show for many



years. Her lovely daughter Janan lives in Philadelphia. On the last day of the show, Pati purchased a DVD depicting the whole 2015 Phil. Flower Show.



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Upcoming Events

March 31 — Fashion Show

Greet club members **Lynn Fernandez**, **Leony Filler**, **Emily Lacina**, **Connie Moseley**, and **Linda Rosenfeld** as they model fashions from **Chico's**, clothier for smartly dressed women of all ages and sizes. Chico's clothes, "Make you look as good as you feel." Meet at 10:30 am at Chico's in the upscale Manhattan Beach Shopping Center on PCH. Fashions, friends, refreshments, raffle, a special attendee discount, and a 10% sales donation to RGC combine to make this a fun RGC fundraising opportunity.

chico's

March 31 — RGC FUNdraising

The fun doesn't stop after the Chico's Fashion Show. All day Tuesday, March 31st, California Pizza Kitchens will support RGC by donating 20 % of our purchases. Join us for lunch at 12 o'clock. Be sure to RSVP to **Sheila Kutkus**, if you are planning to attend.



You may also take family and friends at any other time on that day to earn a donation to our club. The attached flyer must be presented at the time of sale.

April 28 — Bus Trip to Pasadena

On this outing we will visit Arlington Gardens (featuring native and Mediterranean plants) and the Storrier Stearns Japanese Garden located across from each other. A box lunch from Copa Vida in Pasadena is included in the \$45 cost. Register with **Sharon Saffer** by April 15th. Bus will depart Lago Seco Park at 9 am.

May 2 — Boutique Succulent Sale

The plant sale to support the Scholarship Fund will be held at **Charlie Sappington's** home at 5025 Lee St. in Torrance. Sales from 9:00 am till 3:00 pm. The goal is to offer items suitable for Mother's Day gifts such as plant baskets, succulent gardens and bromeliads. Pricing and setup Thur. and Fri. Help is needed.

RGC Nominating Committee

According to RGC's Bylaws, "The Board of Directors shall appoint a Nominating Committee of three members each year." **Lynn Fernandez**, **Bobbie Davison**, and **Kathryn Joiner** are this year's nominating committee. While most of the positions have candidates, try to help out if someone from the nominating committee calls on you. Elected officers are President, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Vice-Presidents, Treasurer, Recording Secretary and Corresponding Secretary.

Member News and Tidbits

Congratulations:

March Birthdays

Cecilia Ceasar	01	Eunice Hargrove	28
Toni Sargent	20	Carol Lefevre	31
Alberta Brice	26		

April Birthdays

Allison Jones	04	Colleen O'Neill	19
Pam Barrett-Hill	11	Phyllis Roth	27
Betty Moye	19		

Sunshine

Several members would appreciate a card expressing your thoughts and support.

- **June Young's** son, while readying her house for lease, reports that June is very happy in her new residence.
- **Karen Lent** is continuing her treatments for cancer and is showing great strength in this trying time. Due to a weakened immune system - no visitors or flowers at this time. Cards are welcome.
- **June Stevenson** reported the sad news that **Ethel Sellars**, a member since 1980, has entered hospice care. Cards are very welcome but no visitors.
- **Eunice Hargrove** recently had hip replacement surgery. She is doing well.
- **Nan Clancy** will have surgery March 25th. Cards are welcome.
- **Gloria Resek**, former RGC member, had complications after hip replacement surgery and will be laid up for many weeks recovering. You may send "Get Well" cards to 4720 Paseo De Las Tortugas, Torrance, 90505.

March 24 RGC Regular Meeting

The **regular RGC meeting** is **Tuesday March 24** at the Airport from 9:30 a.m. to noon. Jerry Robinson, owner of **Rainforest Flora Inc.**, will speak about bromeliads. He promised to enthrall us. We are invited to visit his nursery **AFTER** his presentation at our meeting.

The front area of Rainforest Flora, 19121 Hawthorne Blvd, is like a botanic garden with tillandsias, bromeliads and other plants placed amid pleasing rock and water features. It is truly an exquisite environment!

Let's **go out to lunch** at the **Souplantation** after our visit to **Rainforest Flora Inc.** It is located at **19121 Hawthorne Blvd.** in **Torrance.**

CGCI Winter Board Meeting in Fresno

Rita Desilets, CGCI President, announced that NGC will vote at their upcoming convention to increase the dues that the state garden clubs pay for each of their members from fifty cents to one dollar. If the NGC motion passes, CGCI Convention delegates will be asked to ratify a motion to increase the dues that clubs pay for each of their members by fifty cents as well. At RGC's general meeting in February, the members present directed our club's voting representatives to vote 'Yes' on the change at the CGCI Convention. RGC dues will not change as a result.

Like all state meetings, this Winter Board included a tour as well as several workshops. On the tour, we visited the California State University, Fresno Campus. It has a strong agriculture program that includes wine-making. Our tour of the winery was conducted by the student in charge of daily operations along with the professor overseeing the winery. Students graduating from this program are highly sought. Other stops on the tour included the green houses where students propagate plants for sale to the public and a store featuring all the products produced as part of the agricultural programs. The ice cream is especially good.



Photo by Judy Unrine



Photo by Judy Unrine

El Retiro Featured in Golden Gardens E-News

Golden Gardens E-News, March-April issue, featured RGC's El Retiro Library mural. Artist **Dean Bardos** created the mural on the wall above the garden Riviera GC has landscaped and maintained for many years.

"If you have a Garden and a Library, you have Everything you need." This quote by Roman philosopher Marcus Tullius Cicero is still relevant today after 2000 years.



Photo by George Unrine

Costa Verde District—March Mtg

Our club joined with President Jackie Domancich and members of San Pedro Garden Club to serve as hostesses for the March meeting of Costa Verde District. **Toni Ziegler** greeted attendees at the reception table: **Bertie and Wister Wood, Betty Moye, Geneva Martin,** and **Judy and George Unrine** provided refreshments.

Ellen Meikle owner of Water Wise Garden Center, on Crenshaw Blvd., presented a program on landscaping with cacti and succulents. She made several interesting points as she presented different plants that are suitable for a water wise Garden. The following are a few:

- "Bees make 70 percent of our food. They are dying off and need plants that bloom. Aeonium produce flowers that they love."
- If you plant Echinocactus, indigenous to California, it will repel skunks and gophers.
- Grasses are a good addition to drought tolerant landscapes because they provide variety in shape and color. Most importantly, they provide movement.

CVD Hosting CGCI 2016 Winter Board Meeting

As you have probably heard, Costa Verde District will be hosting the CGCI Winter Board Meeting to be held from January 31 thru February 3. The Hilton Doubletree in San Pedro has been chosen as the location. All of the district clubs will be providing support to make our district shine. **Alexis Slafer** (Hermosa Garden Club) and **Gudy Kimmel** (Gardeners Garden Club and South Bay Floral Arrangers) are Co-Chairman for this event. They will be leading the planning meetings during the remainder of the year to make this event a success.

RGC February Meeting— Succulent Vertical Gardens

Our February program was presented by **Sandy Chase**, a volunteer at the Huntington's Cactus and Succulent Garden. Sandy is a succulent aficionado! She taught us how to easily create a small, vertical succulent garden.

Sandy began with a wooden box she purchased from Home Depot's garden department. A simple frame can be made at home using cedar or redwood for the box. Staple wire screening to the front of the box.



Lay the frame on a table with the wire side down. First fill half the depth of the frame with dampened



peat moss. Fill the remainder of the space with a soil mix suitable for cactus and succulents. Sandy uses a 50% cactus mix and 50% pumice. Attach a wooden board to the back of the frame to hold the mix in place.

Turn the box to the front.

Create a pleasing design with plants. Use chopsticks or long nosed tweezers to make a hole in the moss for each plant. *Crassula*, *echeveria*, *sedum*, *graphophylum*, and *kalanchoeia* are examples of plants Sandy used.



replaced. The finished hanging garden should look attractive for many months.

Remember not to initially place the plants too close together as they will fill in over time. Keep the frame horizontal and spray the plants with water until they have rooted. It may take a month or so until you can hang the frame on a vertical surface. Some plants may not survive and need to be

Community Outreach

El Retiro Library:

March 21— Succulent Basket Workshop

Pati Johnson, **Geneva Martin** along with other RGC volunteers will host a workshop at El Retiro Library featuring the creation of small, succulent baskets. The workshop begins at 10 am on Saturday.



April 22— Earth Day Children's Workshop

Geneva Martin along with other RGC volunteers will host a workshop at El Retiro Library where children will create butterfly pots. The pots will be planted with *Asclepias* and other plants that butterflies can use for nectar and to lay their eggs. The workshop is from 4 to 5 pm on Wednesday.

Bunka Sai Japanese Festival

The Torrance Sister City Association presents its 43rd annual **Bunka Sai Japanese Cultural Festival** Saturday and Sunday, **April 25 & 26 from 11 to 5 p.m.** What may interest RGC members are **Ikebana style flower arrangements and bonsai displays**. There will be games for grandkids, origami, and tasty food. There is a great arts and craft boutique. Bunka Sai proceeds benefit the summer student cultural exchange program with Torrance's Sister City, Kashiwa, Japan.

Fujiko Ishikawa

Past RGC member **Fujiko Ishikawa**, age 101, passed away peacefully on June 8, 2014. Fuzzy, as she was known, joined RGC in 1986 and was an active member for over 20 years. She also loved Ikebana flower arranging and golfing. Fuzzy married Henry Ishikawa in 1935 and they raised their family in Southern California. After her husband's passing her daughter took her back to the internment camp where she stayed during WWII.

Fuzzy was an active member of the Torrance Sister City Association since its inception in the 1970's. Her love of travel took her to six continents, accompanied by family and friends.



Fujiko (Fuzzy) Ishikawa, 1913 - 2014

Landscape Awards



Photo by Julian Chasen

February 2015 – The Turchi Residence
421 Calle de Aragon



Photo by George Unrine

March 2015 – The Valentine Residence
638 Paseo de la Playa

Riviera Garden Club:

Mar 17, Tuesday, 9:30 am. RGC Board Meeting. Home of **Bobbie Davison**, 910 Calle Miramar.

Mar 21, Saturday, 10:00 am. Succulent Basket Workshop. El Retiro Library.

Mar 24, Tuesday, 9:30 am. RGC General Meeting. Airport Meeting Room. *'Bromeliads for the Home and Garden'*.

Mar 31, Tuesday, 10:00 am. Fashion Show FUNdraiser. Chico's, Manhattan Village Shopping Center.

Mar 31, Tuesday, all day. California Pizza Kitchen Fundraiser. Bring flyer for donation.

Apr 21, Tuesday, 9:30 am. RGC Board Meeting. Home of **Kathryn Joiner** and **Nan Clancy**.

Apr 22, Wednesday, 4 to 5 pm. Butterfly Workshop. El Retiro Library.

Apr 28, Tuesday, 9:00 am. Pasadena Bus Tour. Lago Seco Park. Arlington Gardens and Storrier Stearns Japanese Garden.

May 2, Saturday, 9 am to 3 pm. RGC Plant Sale. Home of **Charlie Sappington**.

Other:

Mar 18-22, All day. San Francisco Flower and Garden Show. San Mateo, CA.

Mar 21-22, 10 am to 5 pm. Theodore Payne Native Plant Garden Tour.

Apr 11-12, 9 am to 4 pm. Cactus and Succulent Society Show and Sale. South Coast Botanic Gardens. Free w/paid admission.

Apr 18, All day. Spring Plant Sale (includes Dahlia Society tubers). South Coast Botanic Gardens.

Apr 23, Thursday, 9:30 am. Costa Verde District Bus Trip. South Coast Botanic Gardens. Costa Mesa Flower Show at South Coast Plaza.

May 16-17, 9 am to 4 pm. South Coast Geranium Society Show and Sale. South Coast Botanic Gardens. Free w/paid admission.

For more information check our website at www.rivieragardenclub.org

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Torrance, CA 90505



Pasadena
Arlington Gardens
Storrier Stearns Japanese Garden
TUESDAY April 28, 2015

R.G.C. BUS OUTING \$45

Native and Mediterranean plant garden
Japanese Garden

RESERVATION DEADLINE is tax day April 15

Meet at Lago Seco Park 9 a.m. April 28



Make your check out to **Riviera Garden Club**

Put your **\$45** **\$\$ cash \$\$** or **check** in the envelope at this meeting

Bring your payment LATER to a meeting or mail it to Sharon Saffer.

1-310-373-6413

Sharon Saffer
3622 W. 226th Street
Torrance, CA 90505

You will enjoy a catered box lunch in the garden.

You will make your lunch choice at a later date.

Bring your own water.

Riviera Garden Club Presents a

FRIENDS & FASHION
go hand-in-hand



NEW STYLES YOU CAN HELLO CHIC DAY AFTER DAY.
MEET THE BEST FRIEND YOUR CLOSET HAS EVER HAD.

FASHION SHOW
AT CHICO'S
Manhattan Village
Tues., March 31,
10:30 - Noon
\$20 Donation
Door Prizes

All guests receive
an extra **10% off** their purchases
Even on sales items,
PLUS RGC receives 10% of all sales.

Enjoy
Coffee, Juice, Pastries, and Fruit
Sign-up at the RGC meeting or
Contact: Sheila 310-542-3448

Pizza with a purpose.

Bring in this flier, present it to your server, and we'll donate **20%** of your check to the organization listed below. Purchases include dine in, take out, catering and all beverages.

FUNdraiser in support of:
Riviera Garden Club
Tues. March 31st, (All Day)
Valid at the following location:
California Pizza Kitchen
3280 Sepulveda Blvd. Manhattan Mall
310-796-1233

Join the **Pizza Dough™ Rewards program** on your next visit or at cpk.com and receive a **free Small Plate** for registering.



FUNdraiser offer valid only on the date(s) and at the CPK location identified on the flier. Only 501c organizations and non-profits schools are eligible to participate in CPK's FUNdraiser program. CPK will donate twenty percent of food and beverage sales to the organization. Tax, gratuity, gift card and retail sales are excluded from the donation. Offer valid for dine in, take out, online, catering or curbside orders. Not valid for delivery orders. Offer void if flier is distributed in or near restaurant. For more information about the 501c organization participating in the FUNdraiser, please contact the organization directly.