



Riviera Garden Club

Sea Breeze

COSTA VERDE DISTRICT, CGCI, PACIFIC REGION, NGC

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July 2020

A word from our Presidents

PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

What a year it's been for Riviera Garden Club! Thinking back to our first gathering last fall at the Botanic Garden; it was a lovely lunch, program, and stroll through the garden. Flash ahead to the Mad Hatter meeting/installation that was held this month via ZOOM. We've met with unusual circumstances this spring and forged ahead using technology to keep our club together. Once again, we are deeply grateful to Marie Hoffman for arranging and instructing us in the use of ZOOM.

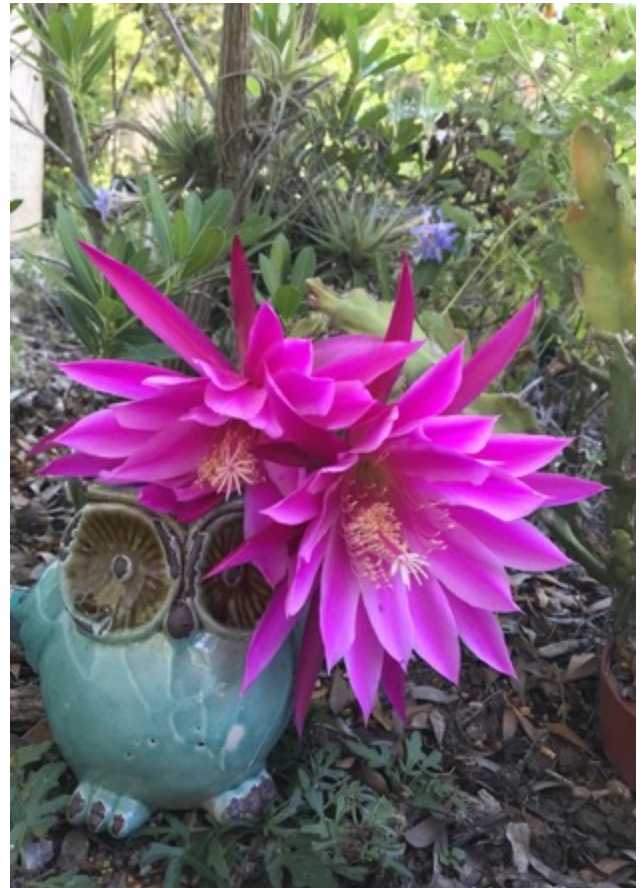
At our Mad Hatter meeting, we paid tribute to our retiring and future officers. However, we want to also acknowledge all the committee chairman and other members who were so important to the successful year we've had. Special thanks go out to the following devoted members:

Geneva Martin, Gloria Balcom, Allison Jones, Carolyn Bazak, Phyllis DeCrescenzo, Ruth Vogel, Jeannie Brown, Linda Rosenfeld, Wendy Tsuji, Geeta Gupta, Connie Mosele, George Unrine, Judy Unrine, Cecilia Ceasar, Bobbie Davison, Pat Heilmann, Pam Barrett-Hill, Mary Alessandra-Cook, Pati Johnson, Jodi Rhodes, Bertie Woods and Claudeene Lyon.

Many of you also helped with hostessing and other important tasks; please know you are all appreciated!

Have a wonderful summer, and we look forward to being with you in the future.

Mary, Toni, and Ellyn



Wendy Tsuji
Photo credit

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Photo by Charlie Sappington

Our Next General Meeting Will be

September 22, 2020
Location to be determined

****Please keep our member Marti Dailey in your prayers. Marti's husband Pat Dailey passed away suddenly on June 3, 2020. Pat was a kind and thoughtful man and a wonderful husband to Marti. He will be greatly missed by many.**

Dear Members:

I want to thank Toni and Mary for doing a nice job this year. I look forward to working with our new Board and Committees.

I will have a bit of time this summer with other Board members to get ready for the Riviera Garden Club's 2020-2021 year and its gatherings – however they may be. At the very least, we will be able to see each other's face at ZOOM meetings until we are able to have a social gathering again.

Although we are currently in a non-social situation, I am thinking positive and I am looking forward for a vaccine to be available so that we will resume our club's gatherings.

Special thanks to Marie Hoffman, our ZOOM coordinator, as she enables us to see and talk to each other online.

At this time, I am shaping up various committees that are essential for the betterment of our organization. That being said, we have an opening for a certain chairperson position in addition to openings for assistants or just to sit in on these committees.

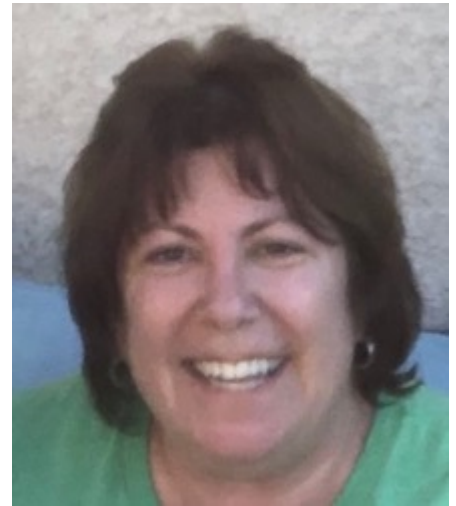
If you are already on a committee, please let me know that you will continue on that committee so we can appropriately list you in the yearbook. If you are interested in engaging in any way, please contact me so we can work you into a position that you feel comfortable.

Currently we have an opening for Publicity chairperson. Last year Mary Allesandra-Cook was chair, but she is now committed to other positions. Mary does have paperwork that is pertinent to the tasks that are important for this position. I volunteer to assist whomever the chairperson is, but I will not be able to chair this position.

It is important we all participate, no matter if you chair or observe, within our committees so we can share in the continued livelihood of Riviera Garden Club. hope you are well and finding time to reach out to each other.

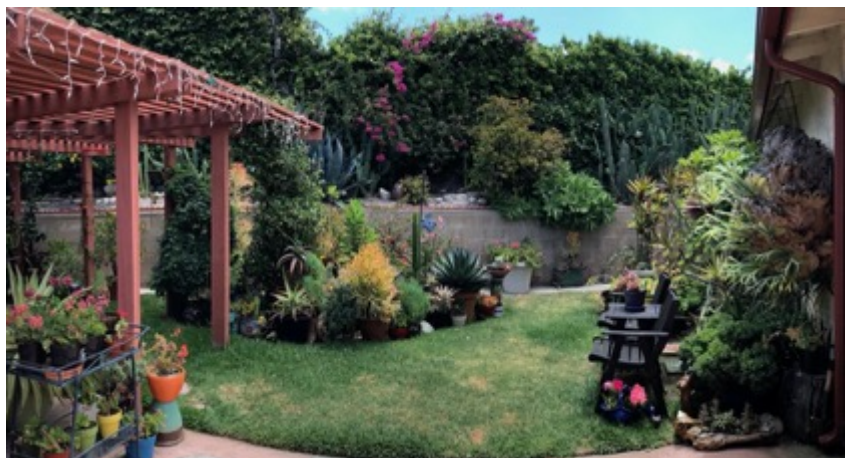
With very best wishes

Ellyn Meikle
Riviera Garden Club
President
310.503.1061 cell/text



Ellyn Meikle

Part of Ellyn's Waterwise Garden



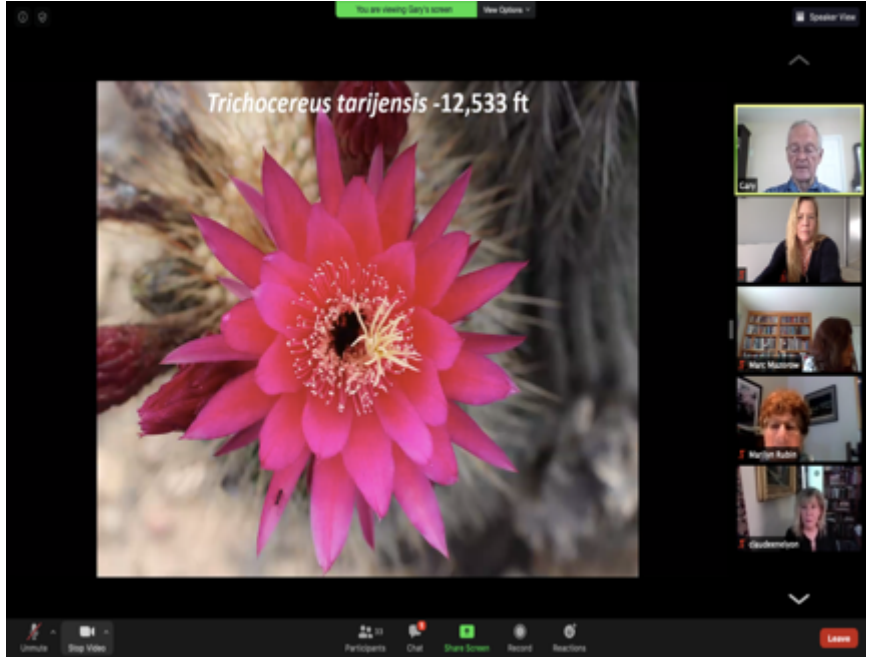
Riviera Garden Club General Meeting May 26th 2020

Our May General Meeting on Zoom was very well attended. We had 37 members on the Zoom call.

Thank you to Marie Hoffman for assisting members to join the zoom.

Co-President Toni Ziegler
Lead the Meeting

Discussion included,
Member dues being collected
Scholarships
The Mad Hatter Party. (please see meeting minutes for details)



showing us cacti, wildflowers and bromeliads in bloom in Bolivia.

Thank you to Gary Duke, past president of South Coast Cactus and Succulent Society, for presenting our club with a fun and informative power point presentation

Gary Duke
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Long Beach, CA 90805
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Mad Hatter/Officer Installation

June 2, 2020

The RGC Mad Hatter Luncheon on June 2nd was held on Zoom. We had 30 members in attendance wearing some very fun and beautiful hats. Thank you all for participating. It was so nice to see everyone's faces and get to connect. Mary Varieur lead the agenda. The new officers were installed.

RGC Officers 2020/2021



President

Ellyn Meikle

First Vice President

Excursions - Marie Hoffman

Hostesses - Geeta Gupta

Programs - Laurie Vaillant

Second Vice President

Publications

Cynthia Lundin

Kathryn Joiner

Third Vice Presidents

Membership-

Lynn Fernandez

Regina Taylor

Secretaries

Diane Hayden

Carolyn Pohlner

Treasurer

Geneva Martin



Scholarships

Each year the Scholarship Group visits our local high schools to announce that is time for the students to apply for the Riviera Garden Club scholarships.

The students are asked to write a short essay about themselves, their family, school activities and charity work. The Scholarship Group is made up of three (3) members who read the applications and select two (2) students to receive scholarships.

This year **Michelle Cullen** from South High School and **Omar Durrani** from West High School were selected. The Riviera Garden Club scholarships are funded from the earnings from the club's annual plant sale.

Riviera Garden Club Dues

Our garden club depends on you to keep us going. In order to continue serving our community and our yearly gifting, we need to collect our yearly dues.

Dues for next year are due June 30, to ensure your inclusion in the yearbook.

Active Members \$50.00, Associate Members \$60.00

Thank you

Please send checks to: Riviera Garden Club, c/o Ellyn Meikle, 1350 244th St., Harbor City CA 90710

Our garden club depends are you keeping us going Staying Connected

Volunteers are calling 10 people a month. Please feel free to join in and call members.

A new way we would like to stay connected is the, "make a call, get a call" plan. This will connect members with at least two other members during this isolating time.

For this plan every member would call the person whose name is after theirs in our directory and connect with a chat or a message.

Being in relationship is such an important part of why we all belong to the garden club. Let's make sure we continue that connection while we maintain social distancing.

Happy Birthday Wishes to:

July

Nan Clancey 4

Wendy Tsuji 10

Caroline Polner 20

Sherry Streetmaker 22

Gloria Balcon 23

Getta Gupta 30

Bobbie Davidson 31

August

Bernice Slocovich 9

Phyllis De Crescenzo 13

Emily Lacina 14

Margery Phillips 14

Wendy Eddy 19

September

Lynn Fernandez 2

Stacey Berkman 3

Aleen Houston 5

Marti Dailey 12

Sharon Saffer 19

Laurie Vaillant 20

Cynthia Lundin 21

George Unrine 24

Kathryn Joiner 26

Connie Moseley 29

JARDIN DE BOTANICO DE VALLARTA

By Ellyn Meikle

Nov 2019

Sixteen miles south of central Puerto Vallarta, tucked away in the hills north of El Tuito, is where you will find Jardin Botanico Vallarta (JBV). I have been a supporter of these gardens since 2012. The property has many paths that will take you through its lush gardens. This includes, but not limited to, native orchids, bromeliads, succulents, cactus, and other interesting plants. As a plant nursery owner I have been supporting JBV evolving into a matured exhibit of natural flowers and fauna.

In 2014, I went for a visit with handfuls of seeds from one of our lantana plants. Robert Price, Curator, spread them throughout the main path from the entrance to the main hacienda. I have returned on numerous occasions, and I watch as our lantana grows. A part of WaterWise Garden Center (WWGC) still lives on! I was there this past October, and the lantana has grown into tremendous bushes. I look forward to seeing the progress on my journeys there in 2020.



Curator Robert Price



WWGC lantana plants

There are pavilions for rhododendrons, orchids, succulents, and tropical plants. In 2014, the rhododendron pavilion was completed. It houses a variety of exotic orchids and other exotic plants. In 2018, the pavilion for cactus was opened. Mounds of lava rock make are base of the cactus gardens.



Cactus pavilion



Exotic plant pavilion



Chapel at the Top

In the exotic plant pavilion there is a sterile lab that house hundreds of sprouting orchids and other exotics. Before the lab was up and running, Robert showed me the layout and plans he had for cultivating native plants. The lab is now filled with sprouts and young adult plants.

Robert built a small chapel that can seat 24-ish people. The magnificence of the structure and the path to it is a work of art. Behind the chapel is a small area that pays homage to the gardens' founder Betty Price.

With comfortable facilities I always have a siesta after lunch. The view from the lounging area is magnificent with lush mountains as a backdrop and running rivers flowing during the wet season.

The hacienda houses an open-air multipurpose room for large events. There is a large gift shop of for those who enjoy talavera and other Mexican artisan gifts. Upstairs is a lovely open-air restaurant that is surrounded with hummingbird feeders that attract many colorful hummingbirds. A wooden tray sitting just below is full of fruits and nuts to feed a variety of colorful birds and squirrels. The menu has a good variety, and the food is always delicious.



If you enjoy botanical gardens, and you are interested in taking a day trip in the Puerto Vallarta area, I highly recommend a visit to Jardin Botanical Vallarta. As a local grower of cactus, succulents, and orchids, I am overwhelmed at the plethora of native and exotic plants that grow there.

For more information visit www.vbgardens.org

This is an unsolicited review by Ellyn Meikle for those who receive this newsletter.

Riviera Garden Club Agenda for General Meeting Tuesday, May 26, 2020

MINUTES

President's Call to Order: Toni Ziegler called the meeting to order at 10:08am. She thanked Marie Hoffman for organizing another ZOOM meeting (37 participants). **Secretary:** The April 28, 2020 General Meeting minutes were approved by general consent. **Treasurer:** Ellyn Meikle reported that as of April 30, 2020 Checking amounted to \$9,446.06 and Savings \$15,689.65. Current Treasurer's Report will be filed subject to review. **President's Report:** Toni Ziegler reported that current Board appointed Ellyn Meikle as President and Geneva Martin as **Treasurer for next year**. There is still a vacancy in the position of First Vice President for Programs for which she requested a volunteer. There was no volunteer at this time. **The following officers for 2020-21 were approved [Sappington/Alessandra-Cook]:**

President: Ellyn Meikle **First Vice President:** Marie Hoffman (Excursions), Geeta Gupta (Hostesses) **Second Vice Presidents:** Cynthia Lundin, Kathryn Joiner (Publications) **Third Vice Presidents:** Lynn Fernandez and Regina Taylor (Membership) **Treasurer:** Geneva Martin

Secretaries: Diane Hayden and Carolyn Pohlner. The new officers will be installed at the Mad Hatter meeting (via ZOOM) on June 2nd at 10:00 a.m. Scholarship winners may be present and acknowledged at that time. Members were reminded to wear a hat... plain or fancy. ZOOM link and details will be sent to you next week by email.

TZ thanked Cynthia Lundin for publishing the May newsletter, another information and photo-filled depiction of RGC's activities.

Reports of Other Officers:

- **First Vice Presidents: no report** . Second Vice Presidents: Cynthia Lundin reported that there will be one final **newsletter after the Mad Hatter meeting.**

Third Vice Presidents: Regina Taylor reported that 33 members have paid dues for next year, 34 unpaid. Toni Ziegler will send a reminder about dues in an email with the Mad Hatter Zoom link. **Dues are** due before June 30, the end of the fiscal year when books are closed.

Adjournment: 10:28am Marie Hoffman introduced Gary Duke who presented a program on cacti and succulents.

Submitted by Diane L. Hayden: