



Riviera Garden Club

Sea Breeze

COSTA VERDE DISTRICT, CGCI, PACIFIC REGION, NGC

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FROM OUR PRESIDENT



Carolyn Pohlner

To live life is to experience anxiety. Practicing awareness and taking a deep breath can help reduce the angst. The following quotes offer encouragement for quieting the anxious mind. Take a deep breath and soak in the calming wisdom of famous writers, philosophers, and leaders.

Thích Nhất Hạnh Feelings come and go like clouds in a windy sky. Conscious breathing is my anchor.

William S. Burroughs Your mind will answer most questions if you learn to relax and wait for the answers.

Marianne Williamson Everything we do is infused with the energy with which we do it. If we're frantic, life will be frantic. If we're peaceful, life will be peaceful.

Maya Angelou You may not control all the events that happen to you, but you can decide not to be reduced by them.

Confucius Life is really simple, but we insist on making it complicated.

Oprah Winfrey Breathe. Let go. And remind yourself that this very moment is the only one you know you have for sure.

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Henry David Thoreau You cannot perceive beauty, but with a serene mind.

Jules Renard The ideal of calm exists in a sitting cat.

Marcus Aurelius The nearer a man comes to a calm mind the closer he is to strength.

Government of the United Kingdom Keep Calm and Carry On.

If following the advice from the previous quotes doesn't do the trick, **TRY GARDENING!**

Zen saying "You should sit in nature for 20 minutes a day. . . unless you're busy, then you should sit for an hour."

Quotes provided by Riviera Garden Club president **Carolyn Pohlner**

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Feb. 21, 2023 RGC Board Meeting at the home of **Toni Ziegler** 9:30 a.m.

Feb. 28, 2023 RGC General Meeting at Torrance Airport 9:30 a.m.

Program: **Gary Mlynek** Rare Fruit

March 21, 2023 RGC Board Meeting at the home of **Geneva Martin** 9:30 a.m.

March 28, 2023 RGC General Meeting South Coast Botanic Garden. **Eunice Hargrove** will provide birthday cake for her 90th birthday.

April 18, 2023 RGC Board Meeting at the home of **Lynn Fernandez** 9:30 a.m.

April 27, 2023 bus excursion THURSDAY to Hollyhock House. \$10 Contact **Geneva Martin** for reservation and info. Lunch on your own.

R. G. C. MEMBER NEWS AND TIDBITS HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:

February

26 Dina Wiley
28 Marie Hoffman

March

1 Cecilia Ceasar
8 Gloria Rezek
18 Marlene Ennis
20 Toni Sargent
26 Alberta Brice
28 Eunice Hargrove

April

9 Joani Thompson
11 Pam Barrett-Hill

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

RIVIERA HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION and RIVIERA GARDEN CLUB LANDSCAPE OF THE MONTH AWARD December 2022



The **Ganis** residence 170 Monte d'Oro

PLANT SALE WORKSHOPS AT ELLYN MEIKLE'S HOME

Ellyn Meikle held workshops at her home for RGC members last Nov. and Dec. to prepare small arrangements from succulent plant cuttings for our April 2023 plant sale. 100 % of the money from the Plant Sale goes to scholarships for local high school students in Torrance or an El Camino College student. You will be notified of the exact date and time that **Marilyn Rubin** will hold a succulent preparation workshop at her home.



PHOTOS FROM THE 2022 HOLIDAY PARTY



MORE PHOTOS FROM THE 2022 HOLIDAY PARTY

Buddy Bench



Riviera Garden Club

The Buddy Bench Teaches Children to Include Each Other.



A **buddy bench** is a seat in a school playground. **Buddy benches** are situated in open and well-traveled areas of the school so that any child using the bench will be noticed quickly. A child feeling the need for a friend can sit on the **buddy bench**. Others will recognize this as a sign that the child needs friendship, help, support or comfort. Someone will come to talk with and befriend the child on the **buddy bench**.

Riviera Garden Club

Is collecting

BOTTLE CAPS AND LIDS to recycle

into a **Buddy Bench**.

We Need Your Help!

Please save your clean caps and lids
and give them to:

Carolyn Pohlner, RGC president

at a Riviera Garden Club meeting



ACCEPTABLE CAPS

medicine bottle caps	drink bottle caps
milk jug caps	flip-top caps (ketchup, mustard)
detergent caps	spout caps (mustard)
hair spray caps	spray paint caps
toothpaste cube caps	ointment tube caps
deodorant caps	caps w/ RECYCLE NUMBERS of (2) (4) (5)

ACCEPTABLE LIDS

cottage cheese container lids	cool whip container lids
mayonnaise jar lids	coffee can lids
yogurt lids	cream cheese container lids
peanut butter jar lids	butter container lids
ice cream bucket lids under 8"	Prescription bottles labels removed

POEM BY CHARLIE SAPPINGTON

OUR DAYS

Oh! The rain! We love you!
You make everything so bright and new.
Now we look forward to sunny days,
In ever so many ways.
A few more showers may come our way,
And those sunny days may delay.

Soon! Soon! Soon!
Spring will be here with all its beauty,
Oh! So dear!
We plan for it in many ways,
As we count the long wet days.

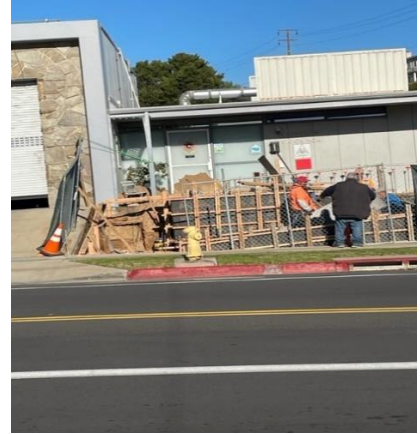
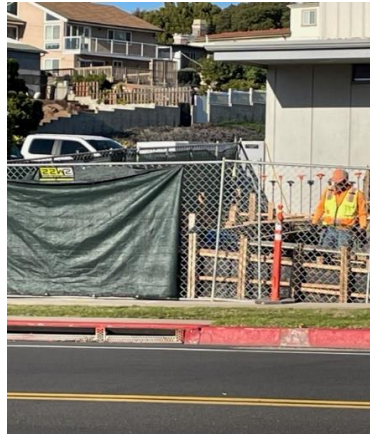
So...
Ready your sun hat and your garden gloves,
And wait a little longer for the days we love.
Our shovel and our rake,
Those we will not forsake.
Love every day, rain or shine,
For all of it is divine!



TOO BEAUTIFUL TO EAT!



WHAT IS HAPPENING AT HOLLYWOOD RIVIERA FIRE STATION 4?



Fire Station 4 is surrounded by green fabric covered construction fencing . It almost totally obscures the view of that station situated at the corner of Calle Mayor and Pacific Coast Highway in Torrance. **Fire Chief Captain Kevin Carter** explained that the station built in 1955 is undergoing its first major remodel in over 6 ½ decades. A construction team is remodeling the original dormitory by turning it into 6 individual bedrooms. A second bathroom will be added so that any future female fire fighters assigned to this station will have a private facility to use. A new kitchen will also be added. The recreation room and kitchen which are now in a temporary location next to Engine 94 in the garage will be completed and the items inside will be returned to their new locations.

Current updated ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) laws mean that Fire Station 4 will have a new ADA compliant driveway with easier access to the front door of the station plus a new area for handicapped parking. At this time, there is only one engine housed inside the station behind huge roll-up metal doors. There is NO paramedic rescue squad at station 4 because that floor space is being temporarily used for kitchen equipment as well as for eating, resting, exercising and sleeping areas. Rescue Squad Number 4 is working out of Fire Station 2. (by the Torrance Airport across from Robinson Helicopter on Airport Drive).

Should we be concerned about the lack of a rescue squad at our local fire station? What if someone who lives in the area served by Fire Station 4 needs a paramedic? Don't worry! A paramedic assessment unit travels with big **Engine 94** on each call. That paramedic renders immediate assistance by starting treatment and then calls for the official rescue squad to transport the patient to the hospital if needed.

This author learned that Torrance does not need to rely on a private ambulance service when the paramedics indicate that a patient needs to be taken to the hospital. The Torrance Fire Department has its own big red square ambulances that have **BLS** (Basic Life Support) written on the sides. The official paramedic rescue squad will return to Fire Station 4 May 2023 when the remodeling is complete.



Torrance Fire Dept. BLS ambulance

Longtime members of **Riviera Garden Club** may remember attending the community reception held at Fire Station 4 in 2008. The **Riviera Garden Club**, **Costa Verde District** and the **California Garden Clubs, Inc.** were instrumental in providing signage to identify the corner of Pacific Coast Highway at Calle Mayor where Fire Station 4 is located as part of the **Blue Star Memorial Highway** system. Blue Star Memorial Highways are highways in the United States that are marked to pay tribute to the U.S. armed forces. We are awaiting the day in a few months when our local newly remodeled Fire Station 4 will be revealed. Perhaps a **Riviera Garden Club** volunteer will weed and maintain the area around the **Blue Star Memorial Highway** marker!





Information for this [Sea Breeze](#) story was edited by **Marilyn Rubin** and revised from an article published March 14, 2014 by writer **Sanden Totten**.

A tiny wisteria vine (spelled "wistaria" in Sierra Madre) was planted by **Alice Brugman** in the backyard of her new Sierra Madre house back in 1894. The wisteria plant quickly spread. When the Brugman home was abandoned years later, the wisteria vine eventually destroyed that original two-story home. The fast-growing vine grew into the home's walls and even caused the roof to collapse.

So how did this 129 year old wisteria vine live so long and how did it get to be the largest blooming plant in the world?

That vine, started in 1894, now covers 2 house lots and an acre of land in the foothills of the San Gabriel Mountains. Wisteria is a famously hardy plant. It originally came from Asia where it's prized for its beautiful hanging flowers and ability to live for decades. As for Sierra Madre's famed plant, "It has a lot going for it for why it's so old and big," said **Gretchen North**, a biology professor at Occidental College. North says the San Gabriel foothills are great for wisteria. The area is not too windy. It's warm with very few hard frosts. And since the plant is non-native, there aren't as many natural pests and diseases to harm it. Wisteria is a legume, and North says that means it has a very unique relationship with naturally occurring bacteria in soil called rhizobia. These rhizobia enter the plant's roots and interact with them to create an enzyme that pulls nitrogen from the air into the soil. "So, it never suffers for lack of Nutrients. Basically, it can grow in very poor soil and manufacture its own fertilizer" says **Professor Gretchen North**.

Frank McDonough, the Botanical Information Consultant with the Los Angeles Arboretum, thinks the Sierra Madre wisteria might also be tapping into an underground water source. "For a plant to get that big, especially a vine, it's going to need a lot of water," he said. Luckily for the wisteria, McDonough says the area around Sierra Madre is unique in that it has pockets of water not too far underground.

RGC member **Eunice Hargrove** has enjoyed the floral beauty of the mammoth wisteria vine a number of times over the years. **Eunice Hargrove** says, "It really is spectacular! Everyone should see it. It's only open to the public one day a year."

Come view the magnificent flowering wisteria vine during The Wisteria Festival Sunday March 19, 2023 in Sierra Madre.

This flyer below invites the public to check out the massive woody wisteria vine that's grown so big it's in the Guinness Book of World Records as the largest blooming plant in the world.

 **SAVE THE DATE!**



WISTARIA FESTIVAL 2023

SUNDAY, MARCH 19, 2023 - 9:00 AM TO 5 PM

FUN FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY

*Celebrate The Guinness Book of World Records Wistaria Vine
Send a Greeting with the Official Wistaria POSTMARK
Visit Local Shops and more than 100 Crafters & Food Vendors
And THE SIERRA MADRE AUTO SHOW
Vendor Applications Available Now!
Shuttle Tickets Sales Begin February, 2023*

www.sierramadrechamber.com

HOLLYHOCK HOUSE HISTORY and RGC EXCURSION

Riviera Garden Club has a bus excursion planned **THURSDAY April 27, 2023** to visit The Hollyhock House located in Barnsdall Art Park in Los Angeles. 40 tickets are reserved for RGC members and friends for an 11 a.m. tour of Hollyhock House. Price of the trip is \$10 payable to **Geneva Martin**. After our visit to Hollyhock House, we will drive to the original Farmers' Market at 3rd St and Fairfax in Los Angeles for lunch on our own at one of the many restaurants and stalls.

Historical Information for the following story about Hollyhock House was edited by Sea Breeze editor **Marilyn Rubin** from an internet Getty site. article by writer **Tristan Bravinder**

Hollyhock House, named a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2019, is a gorgeous Mayan Revival style house with 17 rooms and 7 bathrooms. Oil heiress, theater producer, single mother, and social activist **Aline Barnsdall** commissioned the Hollyhock House. It was originally intended to be part of an avant-garde arts and theater complex known as Olive Hill but today is named Barnsdall Art Park. **Aline Barnsdall** hired **Architect Frank Lloyd Wright**, now known as one of the greatest American architects of the twentieth century, for the job when she bought Olive Hill in 1919. Wright was hired to design multiple buildings, but he only finished the plans for Hollyhock House before being fired. Unfortunately, **Frank Lloyd Wright** wasn't on the job long enough to see all the buildings on the property completed. Wright's assistant **RM Schindler** and Wright's son **Lloyd Wright** oversaw the completion of the project in 1921.



Hollyock House



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