



# Riviera Garden Club

## Sea Breeze

COSTA VERDE DISTRICT, CGCI, PACIFIC REGION, NGC

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### FROM OUR PRESIDENTS



Carolyn Pohlner



Pam Barrett-Hill

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#### Co-PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE from CAROLYN

##### *"Nurtured by Nature"*

"There is mounting evidence, from dozens and dozens of researchers, that NATURE has benefits for both physical and psychological human well being" . . .

Or so say many psychologists and scientists of human nature. I happen to believe this is true. Since I became an officer of a garden club, I know that I personally have paid more attention to NATURE, the environment, climate change etc. I've noticed myself developing more of an interest in flowers and plants, and in gardening details in general. I even took an Omnilore course entitled "The Restorative Power of Nature". All this is leading up to my determined efforts to visit Sherman Gardens and Roger's Gardens on our recent Riviera Garden Club field trip. Home Depot and Lowes serve a utilitarian purpose, but ask yourself, why can't nurseries and florist shops be aesthetically pleasing, as well? Sherman Gardens and Roger's Gardens both fill the bill by appealing to our senses, not just our pocketbooks!

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### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Dec. 4** Costa Verde District **CVD holiday luncheon and meeting** Monday 9:30-12:30 \$10 South Coast B G **RSVP** to Pam Barrett or Ellyn Meikle

**Dec. 10** Holiday Luncheon Los Verdes Golf Club \$50 Send your payment to Pam Barrett-Hill.

**Jan. 16, 2024 RGC board mtg.**

South Coast Botanic Garden 9:30 a.m.

**Jan. 23, 2024 RGC general mtg** 10 a.m.

Location to be determined later.

**Co-President Carolyn Pohlner's message continued from page 1**

Located just minutes apart in Corona del Mar, our first stop was Sherman Gardens, where 25 of us browsed the gardens on our own, admiring their industrious begonia plantings in preparation for the upcoming holidays. Where else in the nation are gardeners planting BEGONIAS in November? Only Southern California! Mini lights and candy cane PVC piping installations added to the holiday decorations currently underway. The small, but pleasantly scented gift shop enticed a few shoppers with some of their well-stocked botanical and Christmas selections. A few of us bought plants. Their holly ferns were a steal!

Many of us enjoyed a delicious (and may I add, not so expensive) lunch at *Dahlia's*, the rustic décor restaurant, right on the grounds of Sherman Gardens. Signature biscuits, soups, sandwiches, salmon, and yummy desserts graced our tables for a leisurely meal.

Back on the bus for the quick jaunt up to Roger's Gardens, where the *"outdoor environment of beautiful foliage, creative plantings, seasonal herbs and vegetables, designer fountains, pottery, outdoor furniture and accessories"* rivaled the indoor holiday boutique. It was like paying a visit to a whimsical candy shoppe featuring nutcrackers, candles, tableware, linens, and a vast array of ornaments and decorations designed to please the child in all of us! If you signed up for a Christmas holiday sensory fix, you came to the right place! There were plenty of trees, wreaths and poinsettias for sale, all fresh and healthy, with healthy price tags to boot! Not as many of us came away with actual purchases but we saw lots of creative ideas for planting and decorating. We compared notes and agreed that both nurseries were an inspirational source for all aspects of gardening!

Heading home to Torrance, I reflected on the beautiful day! I knew it had definitely been a good idea to take the time to fill out the paperwork for us to obtain the county bus for our excursion to enjoy Mother Nature, even if it was in a commercial setting. I know my senses were sated!

**Co-PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE from PAM BARRETT-HILL**

Hi, Riviera Garden Club friends,

We just had a very fun excursion to Sherman Gardens and Roger's Gardens. Thanks to Carolyn for organizing the trip. We had lunch in a beautiful setting!

Hopefully, we will have more interesting excursions.

Next month we have the December 10th party, offered to our whole club, for holiday fun! There will be great food and entertainment.

Please join us in our activities! This is 'your' club to participate in, with wonderful friends!

Pam

**PHOTOS FROM SHERMAN GARDENS in Corona del Mar**  
**By Alberta Brice and Geeta Gupta**



# SALVATION ARMY ANGEL TREE PROJECT



By Toni Sargent

Once again during the holiday season the Riviera Garden Club members will be participating in The Salvation Army Angel Tree Program. Many members look forward to participating in this very rewarding effort. **Toni Sargent** has the Angel Tree tags. Each tag includes a child's age, gender and what they would like. It is up to each individual what they can purchase for each child. The Army will make up the gifts so that each child receives equitable gifts in families. The gifts which you donate do go to the actual families who have registered for the program. These gifts are often the only gift a child will receive. Parents who qualify usually live at or below the Federal Poverty Line. These parents often have to choose between rent, presents, groceries or other bills. Also, The Army appreciates donations of any other gifts of new toys or new clothes. In addition, after the Angel Tree tags have been distributed, Toni tries to complete the gifts for the other Angel Tree tags she has left. Your extra gifts help in that effort.

Monetary donations for the program can also be made to "The Salvation Army Torrance Corps" with a notation of "Angel Tree Project." The Army can also use donations of wrapping paper and ribbon. If you purchase skateboards, scooters or bikes The Army will provide helmets and knee pads to go with these items.

If you would like to participate in the program, you can call **Toni Sargent** at 310-378-7856 or email her at [toni.sargent777@gmail.com](mailto:toni.sargent777@gmail.com) . She can give you information about the children's requests.

All gifts should be unwrapped with the Angel Tree tags attached. Return the gifts by December 10 at the Riviera Garden Club Holiday Party, or earlier to **Toni Sargent**.



## Revision to RGC Bylaws by Toni Ziegler, parliamentarian

An update is needed to Riviera Garden Club's bylaws to conform with past and current election practices.

At the Oct.17 Board meeting, the Board approved the following change (**in bold type**) to **Article V**:  
The officers, elected from the entire voting membership, shall be president, first vice-president, second vice-president, third vice-president, secretary, and treasurer.  
**Each office may consist of one or more members, naming them as "Co" officers.**

In accordance with Article VIII Amendments: The bylaws may be amended at any meeting by a majority of the members present, provided notice is given at least 30 days in advance.

This amendment will be voted on at the January 23, 2024 General Meeting.

# Seasonal Succulents

by Elynn Meikle

This time of year, we see a beautiful cactus and a lovely succulent available for tabletops and hanging baskets in abundance. They are often given as gifts to celebrate the winter holiday season in addition to decorate one's surroundings for a holiday spirit.

**Poinsettia** (*Euphorbia pulcherrima*), commonly called spurge, is in the family Euphorbiaceae. They are a colorful succulent and are sold in plentitude during the winter festive time of year. The cultivated varieties are available with white, pink, mottled, and striped bracts, but the solid red varieties, in several shades, remain in greatest demand. It is the second most popular plant sold - orchids being the first.



This euphorbia is indigenous to Mexico and Central America where it grows in wet, wooded ravines and on rocky hillsides. They are a popular holiday plant because of their colorful bracts (leaves). The tiny yellow flowers in the center are called *cyathia*. The colorful bracts attract insects to the flowers and will drop after pollination.

Poinsettias have a milky juice fluid in the stems and leaves which can be irritating to persons or animals sensitive to it, but the claim that poinsettias are deadly poisonous is exaggerated. Do not touch this latex substance to your eyes and wash it off skin immediately to prevent irritation. Clean your gardening tools after exposing them to this substance.

Suggested reading:

[How to Select and Care for a Healthy Poinsettia](#)

**Christmas Cactus** (*Schlumbergera*) is in the Cactaceae family. *Schlumbergera* is a small genus of cacti with six to nine species found in the coastal mountains of south-eastern Brazil. Common names for these cacti refer to their flowering season. In the Northern Hemisphere they are commonly called Christmas cactus, as it blooms during the winter holidays. In Brazil the genus is referred to as *Flor de Maio* (May flower), reflecting their autumn period in which they flower in the Southern Hemisphere. Most of the popular houseplants are cultivars of *Schlumbergera*, rather than species, with flowers in white, pink, yellow, orange, red or purple. They are distinct in appearance and shape from most other cacti since they grow on trees or rocks as an epiphytic cactus.



Suggested reading:

[Riverside Master Gardeners](#)

Contributing source: Wikipedia

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO THESE RIVIERA GARDEN CLUB MEMBERS

<u>November</u>		<u>December</u>		<u>January</u>	
Marilyn Barker	6	Julia Blake	5	Linda Rosenfeld	7
Meredith Grenier	8	Claudeene Lyon	30	Ellyn Meikle	13
Geneva Martin	9			Mary Varieur	16
Charlie Sappington	18			Bertie Wood	16
Pati Johnson	19			Teresa Henderson	20
Diane Connell	28				
Marilyn Rubin	30				

 

## RIVIERA HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION RIVIERA GARDEN CLUB LANDSCAPE AWARD Sept. 2023

Julia and Matthew Ally  
312 Via El Chico  
Redondo Beach

This design was Julia's idea with the support of her husband Matthew. Julia designed this award-winning garden. She planted almost the whole area herself. Julia Ally is excited to share her colorful garden with her two sons and the whole neighborhood.



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Check out our website at [www.rivieragardenclub.org](http://www.rivieragardenclub.org)

