



Sea Breeze

Costa Verde District, CGCI, Pacific Region, NGC

Riviera Garden Club

Volume 59, Issue No. 3

From The Presidents

Marilyn Rubin and **Kathryn Joiner** have enjoyed spending the holidays with our families. We want to thank **Pam Barrett-Hill** for planning the very nice RGC Christmas Party at Los Verdes Country Club in early December. The food was excellent and there was warm companionship between RGC members and guests. A BIG thank you goes to **Toni Sargent** and **Allison Jones** who coordinated RGC's charitable donations. **Toni** headed the Salvation Army children's Christmas gift drive and Allison chaired the Harbor UCLA Medical Center men's necessities drive. Another holiday Thank You goes to **Tecki Poletti** for hosting a lovely pre-Christmas dessert Open House. At this time **Phyllis DeCrescenzo**

is scheduling dates in 2017 when we can come to her "succulent fairyland backyard" to create arrangements for our pre-Mothers' Day plant sale. **Bertie Wood** and hubby **Wistar** will allow us to have our Spring Plant Sale in their yard. SAVE PRETTY POTS that we can use to make our succulent arrangements. The money from our plant sale funds high school and junior college scholarships. Keep saving shoes for **Bill Blischke's** Soles for Souls charity. Be sure to tie the shoes together when you bring them to a RGC meeting. **Dina Wiley** will be pursuing a lead from the LA County Arboretum about a class on how to create charming ceramic mosaic stepping stones for our gardens. During our 60 year Diamond Jubilee year Riviera Garden Club would like to present

something memorable to the community. Be thinking about what RGC sponsored projects or gifts we can give. Share your ideas with **Nancy Weaver** and **Gloria Balcom** at a gift committee "brainstorming" meeting in early January. Our final thank you goes to **Geneva Martin** and **George** and **Judy Unrine** who work tirelessly behind the scenes in so many different ways to help RGC. **HAPPY NEW YEAR! HAPPY GARDENING!**



Marilyn Rubin & Kathryn Joiner

Member News & Tidbits

Mary Varieur had surgery on December 28th.

Marie Hoffman had eye surgery on one eye December 20th and the other eye gets done on January 3rd.

June Stevenson had surgery on December 28th.

*Members may want to send
Get Well Wishes*

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Member Birthdays

January

Jeannie Brown	5
Nancy Sewell	5
Linda Rosenfeld	7
Mary Varieur	16
Bertie Wood	16



February

Rita Wagstaff	22
Gay Hargrave	23
Dina Wiley	26
Marie Hoffman	28

Calendar of Events

Jan 10—Tuesday—10am

Gifting Committee brainstorming with Nancy Weaver and Gloria Balcom, Corner Bakery
Contact Nancy Weaver for meeting details at (310) 540-8398

Jan 17 - Tuesday - 9:30am

RGC Board - hosted by Geneva Martin
241 Via Los Miradores
(310) 378-9767

Jan 24 - Tuesday - 9:30am - Torrance Airport

RGC General Meeting - Airport
All About Bees by Keith Willingham

Feb 21—Tuesday—9:30am

RGC Board Mtg hosted by Emily Lacina
1709 Addison St Palos Verdes Estates
(310) 378-3267

Feb 15th—Wednesday—11:30am

RGC Fashion Show at Draper's and Damon's.
Light lunch included \$20 minimum participants 40. You may invite a friend.
Contact Charlie Sappington (310) 991-2687 for reservations.

Feb 28 - Tuesday - 9:30am Torrance

RGC General Meeting - Airport
Meet the Birds by Steve Kaye

Mar 1—Wednesday—10am

Costa Verde District Meeting
SC Botanic Garden. Fairy garden demonstration by Joyce Dean.

NOTE: RGC is host! Help Needed!



RGC Succulent Workshops

The following workshops are to prepare succulent arrangements for the April 29th and 30th Pre-Mother's Day Plant Sale.

Workshop Dates:

Tuesday, Feb. 7

Thursday Feb. 16

Tuesday Feb. 21

Thursday Mar. 2

Tuesday Mar. 7

Thursday Mar. 16

Tuesday, Mar. 21

All workshops times are from 1-3pm and will be held in the backyard of

Phyllis DeCrescenzo

22532 Shadycroft Ave, Torrance

(310) 540-3690.

Keep saving **PRETTY POTS AND CONTAINERS.**



Poet's Corner by Charlie Sappington

2017

Happy New Year to one and all,
As we watch the crystal ball fall.
May 2017 be our best year yet!
It will come and go like a jet!

Bless all the members of our club,
With your radiance and your love.

Keep us well! Keep us safe!
Make this world a better place.
A land of peace and love,
With your blessings from above.
Amen!

Sister of the Dirt,
Charlie Sappington



Riviera Garden Club—The 70's—An Interview with Irma Maggio

According to long time member Irma Maggio, The Riviera Garden Club was a much different club in the 1970's than it is today. Most of the members were young housewives. There were additional small garden clubs in the Costa Verde District (CVD) and they had more interclub activities in those years. The smaller clubs met in member's homes, but the CVD met at the South Coast Botanic Garden. Some of the garden clubs, including the Riviera Garden Club, restricted their membership to certain geographical areas.

The focus of those early garden clubs was much more on flower arranging. Two ladies from the Costa Verde District, Helen Gates (101 years

old) and Ester Stough, were the flower show judges; and they were the people to please. Irma explained that one of the favorite types of flower show in those years was called a placement show. This is when a committee selected locations at one member's home and other club members arranged flowers for those places or locations. Another favorite activity was a type of show where garden club members worked in coordination with the South Bay Watercolor Society to make floral arrangements to highlight various paintings in the Society's exhibitions.

Riviera Garden Club sponsored bridge luncheons in the 1970's but that activity gradually changed into Valentine's Day themed fashion show luncheons. Those gala fashion show events were enjoyed by RGC members through the mid 2000's.

Irma told us that two highly respected long-time RGC members and past presidents, Edith Dees and Nadyne Sheldon, were active in the 70's but sadly they are now deceased. Our own Nan Clancy and Toni Sargent were also members in

those early years. They both took a hiatus from RGC and are currently second time around members.

In the 1970's, most of the RGC's members were young housewives.

Included is some biographical information about RGC member Irma Maggio. Irma and her husband Tony came to California in 1950 from Haverhill, Massachusetts. When Irma joined the Riviera Garden Club, she enjoyed meeting new people plus she enjoyed the sociability of the club's young members. Irma soon developed her interest in flower arranging as well as judging and attending large flower shows. One of these district level flower shows was called Fiesta del Flores. She also became active in extending the membership boundaries of RGC and lessening the district's influence on local activities. Irma was involved with many other

activities besides RGC. The Maggio family owned a sail boat and was part of the Lido fleet in Redondo Beach. The Maggio children were born in the late 50's and mid-60's. In the 1970's Irma returned to college, first to El Camino and then to Cal State Dominguez Hills where she earned a degree in art history. Irma also volunteered at Banning House and the Torrance Art Museum. The Torrance Art Museum recently had a show that was co-curated by one of her granddaughters. Originally Irma Maggio lived with her family on Paseo de las Tortugas. Later she moved to Village Palos Verdes. Today Irma Maggio is a resident of New Horizons in Torrance. Even after all these years of living in California, Irma still speaks with her charming eastern Massachusetts Boston accent.

Irma Maggio joined the Riviera Garden Club in 1967, was president in 1970-71 and was promoted to the status of RGC Honorary Member in 2010. Our beloved Irma Maggio has remained a valuable member of and has continued to stay involved with the Riviera Garden Club for almost 50 years.

Irma Maggio interviewed by

Kathryn Joiner and **Geneva Martin**

Edited by **Marilyn Rubin**



Riviera Homeowners Association and Riviera Garden Club Monthly Landscape Awards

These monthly landscape awards are given by a joint committee comprised of members of the Riviera Garden Club and the Riviera Homeowners Association. For more information visit:

Hollywoodriviera.org/Riviera-landscapes/



*Dec. 2016—The Rihaczek Residence
4130 Paseo de las Tortugas*



*Nov. 2016—The Walther Residence
902 Calle Miramar*

How to Get California Garden Clubs e Newsletter Golden Gardens

ONE: On your computer type in California Garden Clubs. Go to the californiagardenclubs.com website.

TWO: Click on the californiagardenclubs.com website. Now scroll down and look on the left for the words **Quick Find**.

THREE: Click on **e newsletters**. You will see Newsletters in **green** on the left. Click on **subscription form** at the bottom in **green**.

FOUR: Fill out the **green** form with the white spaces entitled **subscribe today**. Be sure to check the box **Golden Gardens eNews**. Add your e mail address, your first and last name, **Riviera Garden Club** and then **Costa Verde District**. Click on **SUBMIT**.

FIVE: That is it! The **Golden Gardens** e newsletter will now come every one or two months to your email.

Riviera Garden Club

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Torrance, CA 90505

President@RivieraGardenClub.org

Do you have something to share
for our next newsletter?

Email your articles to
Marie@HoffmanMurphy.com

Articles must be submitted by
February 15th.

We're on the Web
www.RivieraGardenClub.org

Classifieds: Garden Haves and Needs!

Do you have garden items you no longer need
or want?

Send the information to the editor.

Members can contact each other directly.

