

LAS BRISAS

NEWSLETTER

<p>So. Coast Garden & Flower Show Bus Trip <i>April 23, 2015</i> <i>Meet at SCBG parking lot</i> <i>9:00 a.m. Fee: \$15.00</i> <i>Return at 4:30 p.m.</i> <i>Plenty space on bus for plants.</i> www.springgardenshow.com</p>	<p>CVD Board Meeting <i>February 25, 2015</i> <i>SCBG 9:30 a.m.</i> <i>Winter Board 2016 Meeting</i> <i>to follow w/ lunch.</i> <i>Co-chairmen: Gudy Kimmel</i> <i>and Alexis Slafer</i></p>	<p>CVD General Meeting <i>March 4, 2015 9:30 a.m.</i> <i>Speaker: Ellyn Meikle Owner</i> <i>of Water Wise Garden Center</i> <i>“How to utilize succulents &</i> <i>cactus in artist arrangements.”</i> <i>Light Brunch Door Prizes</i> <i>\$2.00 Fee at door</i></p>	<p>CGCI Convention <i>June 8-12, 2015</i> <i>Reno, Nevada</i> <i>Circus, Circus Hotel</i> <i>Awards Banquet</i> <i>Design Banquet</i> <i>Installation</i> californiagardenclubs.com</p>
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District Director’s Message

The year is quickly coming to an end with just four months remaining and whizzing by. The rains have graciously given a great head start to our gardens already abounding with the fragrance of spring. Clubs are busily planning their upcoming fundraising plant sales. Take time to visit them to glean marketing ideas for your own clubs.

Please encourage your members to attend the **South Coast Garden and Flower Show** to take advantage of the many FREE classes with outstanding speakers. The CVD bus ride is an enjoyable and stressless way to go. Mail checks to Ruth Brooker. The **CVD General Meeting** on March 4 will be our last guest speaker meeting so let’s make it a good turnout by sending out an email reminder to members.

CGCI Convention in Reno promises a rewarding time with a memorable schedule of events. The low hotel rate is made even more affordable by sharing a room.

Please think about honoring your special members for their outstanding service with a **CGCI Certificate** at your June meeting. See the list to the right and find all forms on the new CGCI website that is now much easier to navigate.

I enjoyed visiting Riviera and Hermosa clubs and will be visiting San Pedro GC. LBGC pleasantly surprised me with an official invitation to my own club where Art and I were both honored. A beautiful rose plant, “Good as Gold” was presented to me and Art received a Home Depot gift certificate for his willing volunteerism at our club and CVD. Thank you, LBGC!

Warm regards to all, Kitty Guzman, CVD District Director

Honor Someone Special

Long Service Certificate

Members Award of Distinction

CGCI Certificate of Commendation (business)

CGCI Life Membership

Forms may be downloaded from the NEW CGCI website.



Lorraine Ornelas’ Memorial Service held at Fort McArthur’s Chapel on Dec. 22, 2015, was a fine tribute to one who whole heartedly continually served her family, church, and community. Her many years of devoted service to San Pedro Garden Club, Costa Verde District and CGCI will always be remembered, appreciated and valued. We miss her. Thank you, Lorraine!



CGCI WINTER BOARD ~ FRESNO, CA



Business is what the CGCI Winter Board was about as seen from the serious faces at the General Meeting (bottom photo) and the District Directors meeting (top two photos) w/ Julie West presiding. Also enjoyed was a tour to Fresno CSU greenhouse, winery and bookstore. Workshops were *Hand Held Arrangements*, *Wrapping Flowers for a Special Occasion*, *Pressed Flower Cards* and *Water-saving Landscapes*. Guest speakers educated the delegates during the meals and country music entertainment was provided at the last dinner.

CGCI Winter Board Meeting



Leonard Ichimoto, color specialist at Riverside Nursery in Fresno, demonstrated the creation of these two beautiful color bowls during the luncheon. These bowls were auctioned off by auctioneer Robin Pokorski at the dinner banquet where \$325.00 was raised for CGCI's Scholarship Fund. Adding great enthusiasm and laughter to the event was the auction of a brown dinner napkin "donated" by Elaine Davis who also volunteered a kiss to be given to the highest bidder who happened to be Daniel Gluesenkamp, Executive Director of California Native Plants Society. President Rita Desilets also presented a \$1,000 check to Mr. Gluesenkamp from CGCI for CNPS.



Elaine Davis, incoming Orange County District Director, is a member of Laguna Beach Garden Club. Here she happily holds her raffle prize won at her first CGCI Winter Board Meeting.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY LANDSCAPING



Habitat for Humanity
Home Landscaping Project
in Long Beach by LBGCC.

The Long Beach Garden Club is the only club in the district that has been involved with CGCI President Rita Desilets' President's Project thus far. Above, a young daughter of the family is standing proudly in the yard of their new home's landscaping. There still is time for other clubs to participate. Contact CGCI Chairman Sara White for details on getting started with this rewarding and easily accomplished project that can be completed in one day with willing hands and hearts. You'll be so glad you did!

DISTRICT CLUB MEETINGS & ACTIVITIES



The District Director visited Hermosa Garden Club on Feb. 18, 2015, where a scrumptious potluck luncheon was enjoyed. The large membership is extremely active with many projects. To the left is a monthly contest for the best specimen blooms.

Costa Verde District Presidents' Reports

Riviera Garden Club 2014-2015

President Marilyn Rubin

Civic Beautification: Los Arboles (Rocketship Park)- We maintain the area and supply appropriate plants in cooperation with the Torrance City Parks & Recreation Dept. El Retiro Library- Every week a dedicated RGC committee maintains the planters and flower beds in front of this library in El Retiro Park. Waleria Library- Our club maintains the beds in front of this Torrance Library that is planted with low water native and Mediterranean plants. Torrance City Marker- A RGC committee has planted and maintains the bed beneath the Torrance city marker at the intersection of PCH and Palos Verdes Blvd using low water and low maintenance plants. Colinas Circle- RGC maintains a raised-bed in a small circle at the intersection of the streets Calle Mayor and Camino de las Colinas with low water and low maintenance plants. Landscape of the Month: Several RGC members team with the local Riviera Homeowners Association to select a home front garden for a monthly landscape award. Penny Pines Plantations and Reforestation: Through the sales of new or slightly used items and plants or plant cuttings at our monthly club meetings, we are able to donate money to purchase pine tree plantations for the Angeles National Forest. Bouquets of the Month: At the monthly RGC meeting, members bring flowers from their garden for two members who create bouquets which are given to members who are ill or need cheering. Junior Garden Club: One of our members works with special education students to plant and maintain a flower and vegetable garden near their classroom. Hospital Garden Therapy: succulent dish gardens are created at a special meeting and are donated to UCLA Harbor General Hospital as gifts to patients to brighten their hospital rooms. Scholarships: two are given to Torrance High School and El Camino College horticulture or ecology students. Local organizations: Special Projects completed in 2014: Memorial bench installed at Miramar Park honoring one of the first residents of the Riviera. Two memorial tree dedications at local Torrance parks. Funding for an extraordinary outdoor mural painted by a local artist at the El Retiro Library in Torrance.



“If you have a Garden and a Library, You have Everything you need.”

District Presidents' Reports

Long Beach Garden Club Co-Presidents Bonnie Goldberg & Fran Woods

By December, funds had been raised for an \$800 scholarship for a student in the Horticulture Program at Long Beach City College, to be awarded in May, 2015.

Members participated in CGCI's President's Project, designing and planting a garden at a Habitat for Humanity home in Long Beach.

Since September, two field trips have been held and two are planned for Spring. Members will have visited a Wellness Garden, two botanical gardens and an exotic plant greenhouse and nursery.

Through the end of 2014, members contributed over 90 hours of service to gardening projects in the community.

A fascinating meeting was Peter Olpe's presentation on the history of South Coast Botanic Garden and the dynamo of June Young, a woman who convinced the County to establish the site, and then with her gardening colleagues, set about installing the first plantings.

Hermosa Garden Club President: Christy Robinson

Two Special Projects that gave pride to our club and our city:

- 1) July 2014 - to celebrate the Life of DONIE FIELD.

We helped in the restoration of the Theodore Payne Native Flora Garden and dedicated a bench in her honor.

- 2) December 2014 - to honor and celebrate MARIAN WILSON on her 90th Birthday.

We had a ribbon cutting/dedication of a Blue Butterfly/Native Plant Project. ALEXIS SLAFER helped with the planning and planting.

***JAN BRITAIN spearheaded both projects and was just named Hermosa Beach Woman of the Year for her outstanding community involvement.

SPGC started our 2014 Fall season with two excellent speakers. Our September speaker presented a program on geraniums. As the geranium is SPGC's official flower, the program was of special interest to us. And in October, Mike Garcia from Enviroscape LA gave us some new ideas on landscaping under drought conditions.

Our December activities included the following: ☒ We held our annual holiday luncheon at Ports o' Call Restaurant. The jewelry table is always a highlight of our luncheon. Members donate jewelry, while Irene Rich, our coordinator, cleans, does small repairs, and prices the jewelry to sell. Lou Hagemeyer was honored with a Penny Pines certificate for her many contributions to the club. We also collected and donated non-perishable food items to Harbor Interfaith. ☒ In the past, Doris Nagy has always visited Beacon House Sober Living with a Christmas card and small gift for each resident. As Doris was unable to attend this year, the tradition was continued with her granddaughters, Robin and Lisa, filling in for her. ☒ Each December, the community of San Pedro has a holiday parade. Two of our members, Mallory Hartt and Kathleen Woodfield, decorated a truck with flowers and garlands, and rode in the parade representing SPGC.

We look forward to 2015 with an interesting agenda for our San Pedro Garden Club members.