

Virginia Robinson Gardens

Spring/Summer Newsletter 2009

President – Leslie Kavanaugh

Editor – Nancy Miller

1008 Elden Way, Beverly Hills, California 90210

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www.robinsongardens.org



SPECIAL BENEFIT ISSUE



Message from the President

LESLIE KAVANAUGH — PRESIDENT 2008-2009



As President, I have had the great pleasure of working on many successful and rewarding projects: Administrative Reorganization, Restoration, Education, Children's Community Outreach, Membership Development, and the Annual Benefit. Without question, the 2009 "...into the garden" Benefit Tour was the highlight of the year. On behalf of all the Friends, I want to again thank the Women of the An Family for their generosity and friendship, the homeowners who so graciously opened their gardens for our guests and Benefit Tour Grand Marshal, Jim Jahant. Gala Chairman, Kerstin Royce and Benefit Tour Chairmen, Jeanne Anderson and Sunday Taylor are also to be commended for their talented management and gracious spirit throughout the entire Benefit Season. In an event as complex as ours, the list of thank you's could fill the page, but I do want to extend my sincerest gratitude to all of the Friends for their hard work, to Tim Lindsay and his staff, to the County and to Bianca Costin,

Events Coordinator for the Friends; without you we could not do it.

As we start the new season and leave the old, we are ever mindful of our beginnings. In 1982, The Friends of Robinson Gardens was founded. Its mission was to support and underwrite the house and gardens, to provide ongoing community education and to initiate new and innovative plans to maintain the estate for future generations. Since that time, the Friends have undergone a number of changes, each time responding to the needs of the organization and the community in which we live. An organization must change with the times, must go through a symbolic *metamorphosis* or it eventually risks staying in its cocoon too long and perhaps even missing the spring. With this thought in mind, we have initiated a new membership program with the goal of enlarging our circle of support. Please take a moment to read through the following categories and/or share it with friends and business associates who might be interested in becoming a Friend. Together we can take Virginia Robinson Gardens from the city's "secret garden" to its favorite garden.

Leslie Kavanaugh

FRIENDS, Level One

Annual fee of \$475 that includes:

- Annual dues
- Two (2) Garden Tour tickets
- Invitation to events/programs sponsored and co-sponsored throughout the year by Robinson Gardens
- Invitation to two (2) private garden viewings (limited space)
- Friends at Level One must complete a work hour requirement

FRIENDS, Level Two

Annual fee of \$775 that includes:

- All benefits of previous level
- Elimination of work hour requirement

FRIENDS FELLOW

Annual fee of \$1500 that includes:

- All benefits of previous levels
- Private tea and docent tour of the Gardens for Friend and one guest
- Invitation to two (2) exclusive gardens/museum tours

FRIENDS PATRON

Annual fee of \$2500 that includes:

- All benefits of previous levels
- Private tea and docent tour of the Gardens for Friend and three (3) guests
- Invitation to an exclusive evening event

FRIENDS BENEFACTOR

Annual fee of \$5000+ that includes:

- All benefits of previous levels
- Invitation to two (2) exclusive Benefactor evening events
- Grateful recognition of your support on a permanently installed plaque at the Virginia Robinson Gardens

Patron and Benefactor levels are available for Corporate Memberships.

Note: A portion of the fee in each category is tax deductible.

**For more information and a membership packet,
please call the Friends office at 310.550.2068**

Restoration Project Completed



Left to Right: Russ Guiney, Kimel Conway, Maria Chong-Castillo, Ellisa Bregman, Leslie Kavanaugh, Nancy Miller, Tim Lindsay, John Wicker and Jim Meyers

If you were on the “A list” for the parties at the Robinson Estate, you arrived at the front gate and walked up the long terrazzo terrace to the portico. Once at the front door, you would get your first glimpse of the grand dame, Virginia Robinson, as she stood in the receiving line in the entry hall of the main house.

In recent years, the condition of the Terrazzo Terrace had deteriorated to a point it was necessary to completely restore this feature of the estate.

The word “*terrazzo*” is a 17th century Italian word used to describe marble chip flooring set in colored concrete. It was used inside and outside many villas in Italy built during that period. The material is extremely durable and can be designed to have exquisite details composed of colored concrete impregnated with marble chips.

The scope of the restoration project was from the threshold of the front door to the pedestrian gate on Elden Way. The project started by removing all the plant material, garden ornaments and statues on and around the Terrazzo Terrace. This included moving two 500 pound European cement urns.

Demolition was the next step in the process – two jack hammers thundered away for four days to break up the old terrazzo and concrete foundation. Three additional days were required to remove the concrete debris from the property. The large roots from the two magnolia trees located at the front gate had to be carefully reduced in size and removed in some instances before the new concrete foundation could be installed.



Friends Board Members Bobbie Furrey and Angela Movassaghi with Parks Chief Deputy John Wicker

After the framing and rebar was set, the concrete foundation was poured. All looked good, until the next morning when many large half-inch cracks developed. This resulted in everything having to be removed – another 4 days of jack hammers! Apparently, the first concrete mix was too “wet” and dried too fast, causing the excessive cracking.



3rd District Deputy Maria Chong-Castillo and Parks Director Russ Guiney

The second attempt to pour the concrete foundation was a success. The cement foundation was scored to insert the zinc strips, which allowed the terrazzo (colored concrete mixed with marble chips) to be poured in two foot by two foot squares. The green colored squares were poured first, and after they cured, the gray colored squares were poured. Each had the same size, color and quantity (measured by weight) of black marble chips mixed in with the colored concrete.

When the terrazzo hardened, the grinding started. Diamond polishing pads and electric grinders worked for three days to expose and polish the concrete and marble chips. What resulted was a semi-gloss surface that is wonderful to look at and walk on.

We would like to thank Los Angeles County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky and the County of Los Angeles for providing the funds used for this much needed and very beautiful restoration project.



2009 Benefit Gala

*"Some enchanted evening, you may see a stranger,
you may see a stranger across a crowded room.
And somehow you know, you know even then,
that somewhere you'll see her again and again..."*



The Friends of Robinson Garden Patron Gala, celebrated on May 8, 2009, was an evening of magical enchantment where strangers, lovers, friends and associates found laughter, music, and beauty in every corner of the Virginia Robinson estate. Once a year the Friends host a spectacular evening event to honor an outstanding individual or family in the community with the "Spirit of Beverly Hills" Award.

This year Gala Chairman, Kerstin Royce and Friends President, Leslie Kavanaugh presented the award to the *Women of the An Family*. The An Family has been a significant contributor to the Beverly Hills community for nearly twenty years. Their internationally acclaimed House of An hospitality conglomerate includes *Crustacean* restaurant, as well as their lifestyle division, *An Home, An Foods and An Catering*. In addition, the *An Family Foundation*, established in 2002, supports women and children, with a strong emphasis on rejuvenating Vietnamese arts and handiwork. They also contribute to many local and national philanthropic organizations.

Patron Gala 2009 was an exceptional event due to the collaborative efforts of the Ans and the Gala Committee. Every detail was carefully coordinated. From the moment the guests entered the front gates there were exquisite flowers, imaginative drinks and food that was almost too beautiful to eat! Joe Sorachana, custom floral designer for the Ans, created a stunning decor that flowed from the fanciful cocktail area on the Tennis Court to the formal tent on the Great Lawn where orchid centerpieces in a variety of compositions complimented the tables. Above, thousands of white lights filled the rafters illuminating delicate *chandeliers* of eucalyptus, greens and hydrangea. Throughout a delectable four-course dinner, catered by *Crustacean*, the Copy Cat Band performed ensembles that enhanced conversation and inspired dancers to crowd the floor.

The Friends of Robinson Gardens deeply appreciate the generous support and enthusiasm of the Women of the An Family, particularly, Elizabeth, Catherine, and Mama Helene. It was a wonderful experience and a lot of FUN. Congratulations and many thanks to Gala Chairman Kerstin Royce who was the epitome of grace-under-fire from start to finish. Also contributing their time, energy and talent: Laura Alpert, Jeanne Anderson, Ellisa Bregman, Marlene Evarone, Bobbie Furrey, Audrey Jessup, Leslie Kavanaugh, Sara Kutler, Ellen Lipson, Nancy Miller, Sunday Taylor, Leslie Tillmann and Kathy Toppino.

Robbie and Jeanne Anderson, Tim and Margarite Lindsay



Friends President Leslie Kavanaugh and Gala Chairman Kerstin Royce



Scott and Sunday Taylor



Some Enchanted Evening

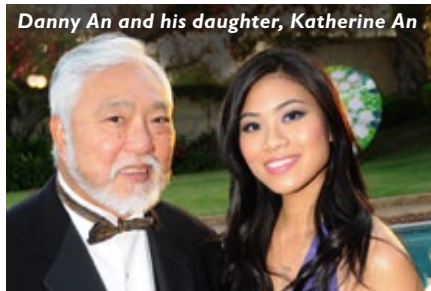
Jacky An, Hanna An, Catherine An, Leslie Kavanaugh, Mama Helene An, Elizabeth An and Kerstin Royce



Elizabeth An and husband Gordon Clune



Danny An and his daughter, Katherine An



Hanna and Elizabeth An with friends



"Spirit of Beverly Hills" Award Acceptance Speech

by Catherine An

"As the youngest of the An's, on behalf of my mother, Helene, sisters- Hannah, Elizabeth-whom you all know, Jacky, and Monique (who could not be here)-we want to thank all of you so much for being here with us tonight.

Our sincerest gratitude to our Gala Chair, Kerstin Royce, for all of her sleepless nights, especially in the last few days, and of course, our dear friend and President Leslie Kavanaugh, and all the amazing committee members of Robinson Gardens. Thank you for honoring us with the "Spirit of Beverly Hills" Award and working so hard to make this evening beautiful for everyone to enjoy. Also, a warm salute to Grand Marshall Jim Jahant and special thanks to Jeanne Anderson

and Sunday Taylor, who have organized a beautiful garden tour for us next week, for which I hope all of you will be there!

When Leslie called and told us that the committee had chosen to honor the women in our family, we were completely humbled. We feel extremely blessed to have had the success we've had and to be able to contribute to this beautiful city that has graciously accepted us.

As a family that has experienced the destruction of war first-hand, the preservation of Robinson Gardens uniquely touches our hearts. For us, bedtime stories were filled with mother's memories of historic Vietnam, her visits to sacred temples, and her family's estate and their beautiful gardens...Very much like the one that we are preserving here tonight. Unfortunately, many of her favorite places have been destroyed by war and lost forever.

For this very reason, the works of the Friends of Robinson Gardens are truly important to us. To carry on Mrs. Virginia Robinson's legacy is more than just about preserving a garden, it is about preserving history. It is about instilling the importance of culture and community in future generations. By preserving the landmark and culture that make Beverly Hills so extraordinary, the Friends of Robinson Gardens continue to positively give back to our community. And they have been, such as creating workshops and outreach programs for Children Hospital, Hathaway Children Services, and Maryvale. The historical treasures, the architecture and beauty that surrounds us tonight are the thread of our community and what makes Friends of Robinson Gardens such a special organization."

"SO THANK YOU EVERYONE, FOR YOUR SPIRIT IN BEING HERE WITH US TONIGHT."

2009 Benefit Gala



Cindy & Jack Jones



Nancy & Beau Miller



Bobbie & Jerry Furrey



Hannah An & husband, Michael Crook



Elliott & Adrienne Horowitz, Barbara Lazaroff, Claudia Deutsch



Bob Van Breda & Dallas Price, Paul & Joan Selwyn, Cliff & Mandy Einstein



Honoree Elizabeth An & President, Leslie Kavanaugh



Honoree Catherine An, Doug Kazanjian, Actress Melissa George



Flowers by Joe Sorachana



Jennifer & David Houck & "Drummer"

BFF (Best Friends Forever) honor the women of the An Family



Laura & Harvey Alpert



Dancing the night away...



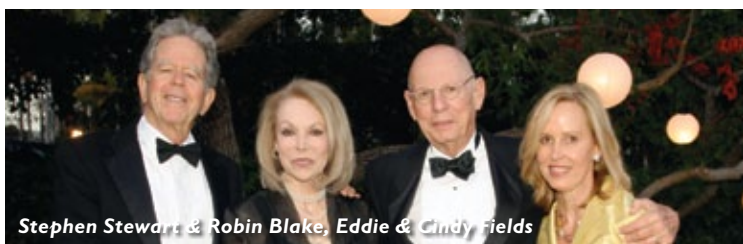
Ricki & Marvin Ring



Honorees Helene & Jacky An with guests



Tanya Norris, Susan & Ken Cohen, Marcella Ruble



Stephen Stewart & Robin Blake, Eddie & Cindy Fields



Honorees Catherine & Elizabeth An with guests

2009 "...into the ga

The five private gardens featured on the 2009 "...into the garden" Benefit Garden Tour 2009 went beyond "splendor" to magnificent. A spectacular modern terrace with a vista across the Rivera Golf Course, a blissful country estate complete with formal vegetable garden and family tepee, a Mediterranean retreat filled with color and gentle water, a Connecticut farmhouse nestled into a hillside surrounded by the romance of a gazebo, bridge and greenhouse – each garden offered an individual and inspiring California landscape. Special thanks go to Garden Selection Committee, Laura Alpert, Maralee Beck and Chrys Stamatis.



Tour Chairmen Sunday Taylor & Jeannie Anderson



Robbie Anderson, Leslie Kavanaugh, Catherine Gershman, past President Claudia Deutsch and Tim Lindsay



Audrey Jessup & Bobbie Furrey



Harriet Beck, Maralee Beck & Connie Austin



Jeannie Anderson & Grand Marshall Jim Jahant



Anita Garnier & past President, Donna Wolff



arden" Benefit Tour



The An Family in the entrance hall under a rose canopy by Mark's Garden



Jeannie Anderson & Kerstin Royce



Maralee Beck, Stacy Klimes & Lynda Fadel



Marlene Evarone & Tracy Smith



Robin Blake & past President Debra Shaw



Sunday Taylor & Nancy Dowey



Nancy Scott, Charlene Norred & Ellen Lipson



Tim Lindsay & docent, Pat Ordelheide

Benefit Tour Chairmen Jeanne Anderson and Sunday Taylor combined their many talents to create an exceptionally wonderful day. Inspired by Asian culture, every aspect of the tour had an elegant simplicity that left a lasting impression. Thirty-four Room Designers and Floral Artists transformed the Robinson Estate into an Imperial Palace filled with luxury and spice. The Grand Marshall for the Tour, Jim Jahant, General Manager of Brooks Brothers of Beverly Hills, was presented with an engraved silver tray to commemorate the day. Salvatore Ferragamo presented fashions throughout the noon hour, which were modeled by members of The Mannequins. Afternoon flower arranging workshops by Marc Byrd and the Flower Princess took place on the Great Lawn under the shade of the center tent. On the estate tennis court, the traditional House & Garden Boutique featured twenty-eight vendors selected by Boutique Chairman, Jill Collins.



Morning Room by Bobbe Vagell

Designers and Floral Exhibitors

A-Packaged Parties

Barbara Barry Inc.

Bobbie Vagell
Floral Design Studio

Botanical Landscape &
Floral Design

Brad Schmidt Designs

Burks Hamner Associates

Charlie Scola
Party Planning

Christofle Paris

Designers Views

Everage Designs, Inc

Flower Princess –
Satsuki Palter

Gearys of Beverly Hills

Holly Flora

Inner Gardens

The Jungle Nursery

K. Spiegelman Interiors

The Kitchen for Exploring
Foods



Leonora Moss
Floral Design

Linda's Garden Roses

Lucas Design Group

Lucia Burke – Garden
Design & Maintenance

Luna Gardens

Lois Esformes
Interior Design

Marc Byrd

Mark's Garden

Mayfair House

Ortolan

Paul Devine
for Interior Devine

Rebecca Bonney
Garden Design

Sierra Landscapes

Silver Birches

Sticks & Stones
Floral Design

Tic-Tock Couture Florals

Yves Delorme



1

3

4

5

6



Thank You

to our talented Room Designers & Floral Artists

- 1. Living Room**
Lois Esformes
Interior Design
- 2. Master Bedroom**
Barbara Barry, Inc.
- 3. Living Room**
Sticks & Stones
- 4. Floral Demonstration**
Marc Byrd
- 5. Master Bedroom**
Silver Birches
Michael Daniels
- 6. Entrance Hall**
Majid Sadir
- 7. Front Terrace**
K. Spiegelman
Interiors and Rebecca
Bonney Garden Design
- 8. Galleria**
Paul Devine for Interior
Devine and Leonora
Moss Floral Design
- 9. Loggia**
Tic-Tock Couture Florals
Eddie Zaratsian
- 10. Galleria Bar**
Jesus Pedroza,
Lucas Design Group
- 11. Kitchen Patio**
Botanical
Christy Kennedy-Laws

- 12. Kitchen**
Charlie Scola
Party Planning and
A-Packaged Parties
- 13. Front Entrance**
Burkes Hamner
- 14. Luncheon Centerpieces**
Jeanne Anderson
- 15. Pool**
Brad Schmidt Designs
- 16. Upper Lawn**
The Jungle &
Sierra Landscape
- 17. Library**
Kim Gregory for
Christofle Paris,
Ellie Salamat, Friend
and Krista Kleemen,
Christofle
- 18. Library**
Luna Gardens
Ricardo Luna &
Paul Reynold
- 19. Guest Bedroom**
Laurent for
Yves Delormes
- 20. Morning Room**
Everage Designs, Inc.
Krista Everage
- 21. Back Terrace**
Inner Gardens



Kitchen Garden by Lucia Burke Garden Design and Dalia Baruch of Designer Views



Guest Bedroom and Bath by Holly Flora



Designers and Floral Exhibitors



22



23



24



25



26



27



28

22. Floral Demonstration
by Flower Princess - Satsuki Palter

23. Floral Arrangement
by Bel Air Garden Club

24. Dining Room
Flowers by Marc Byrd. Tabletop
design by Gearys Beverly Hills

25. Loggia
Tabletop design by Mayfair House

26. Ferragamo Fashions
Modeled by The Mannequins

27. Flower arrangement
by Pasadena Garden Club

28. Authors
Jan Works and Peggi Ridgeway
"Bringing Flowers to America"

29. Flower Arrangement
by Beverly Hills Garden Club



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Tic-Tock Couture Florals

THANK YOU

**A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU TO ALL THE CONTRIBUTORS FOR THEIR GENEROUS
SUPPORT OF THE OPPORTUNITY DRAWINGS AND GIFT BASKETS...**

Accident & Pain Relief Center	Dale Witt	K. Spiegelman Interiors	Rosanna & Gary Grabel	Burks Hamner Assoc.
Ago Restaurant	Dan Koral	Kathy Toledo	Roxana's Exclusive Skin Treatment	Campionario by Gloria Ross
An Crustacean Beverly Hills	Daniel Costin	Katie Moss Landscape Design	Ryan Seacrest	Charlie Scola Party Planning
Anawalt	Danielli	Katrina Fuchs	Shout Factory	Classy Bag Lady
Andrea's Fashion Inc.	David Burke's Primehouse	Kazanjian & Fogarty	Sonia Boyajian	Colette d.
Arte de Mexico	David Yurman	Kerstin Royce	Sprinkles Cupcakes	Corey's Cookies
Artistic Nail Center	Disney	Krön Chocolatier	St. John Boutique Beverly Hills	Designs by Georgina
Asian Art International LLC	Dr. Harold Lancer	Laura & Harvey Alpert	Stanely Penner	Edwards-Lowell Furs
Bar Marmont	Dr. Julia Hunter	Lucia Burke Garden Design	Sue Lapin Art for Museum	Jacqueline B
Barneys New York	Dr. Lisa Benest	Lulur	Susan Blakely	Jenni Kayne
Briggs Wine & Spirits	Ellen & Mark Lipson	Magic Castle	Susan Farmer	Keiki Co
Bristol Farms	Ellisa & Robert Bregman	Magnolia Jewelers	Suz Landay	Louise Hats
Brooks Brothers	Enoteca Drago	Malibu Vineyard	Tania Norris	Luna Garcia
Burks Hamner Assoc.	Epicuren	Margaret O'Conner & Michael	The Beverly Hills Hotel	Mary Norton
Burn 60	Everage Design	O'Meara	The Bistro Garden Restaurant	Moonlite
Calico Corners	Ferragamo	Mario from Ultima Salon	The James Hotel	Over The Top Gifts
Cathy's Critttr Service	Four Seasons Hotel	Marlene Evarone	The Shave of Beverly Hills	Platt Boutique Jewelry
Center Theater Group	Friends of Greystone	Marni Shore-Hoffman	The Tree Resource	Ronelle Designs
Charlie Scola Party Planning	Habit	Massage Arts Group	Trader Joe's	Second Time Around Watch Co.
Chef Christophe Emé of Ortolan	Hathaway Ranch Museum	Mayfair House	Training as a Team	Shelley's Fashions
Cheryl Chalek Fitness	Hotel Bel-Air	Mission Renaissance	Tulip Salon	The Dori Collection
Christine Peters - Paramount	Huntington Botanical Gardens	Montage Hotel	Urban Dog	The Treasured Accessory
Christoffe Paris	Il Cielo	Mordigan Nursery	Vicente Restaurant	Tic-Tock Couture Florals
Christophe Salon	Ilene Samson	Neiman Marcus	Virginia Robinson Gardens	Valize Designs
Cindy Leuty Jones Photography	Jackalope	Nobu Malibu	Web Tech LA	Ya Living
Claudia & Benjamin Deutsch	Jan Naud	Paris Pastries	Wessco International	
Colette Jewelry	Janet Strong	Prive Salon	Westime	
Corinne & Robert Holzman	Jeanne Anderson	Pulp & Hide	Andrea King Handbags	
Crater Lake Vodka	Jon Patrick @ B2V	Roberto Cavalli	Bed Head Pajamas	



Floral Design by Joe Sorachana

Thank You *to our treasured friends and sponsors*

Enchanted Angels

Maralee Beck & Andrew Safir
Robin Blake & Stephen Stewart
Carolyn & Marty Bloom
Elissa & Bob Bregman
Christofle Paris
An Crustacean Beverly Hills
Bobbie & Jerry Furrey
Dorothy & Philip Kamins
Leslie & Jack Kavanaugh
Nancy & William Miller
Neiman Marcus
Tania Norris
Carolyn & Bill Powers
Kerstin & George Royce
Sunday & Scott Taylor
Jamie & David Wolf
The Rose Hills Foundation

Enchanted Admirers

DSJ Printing, Inc. – Jerry Bernard
Andrea's Fashion Inc.
Burks Hamner Assoc.
Charlie Scola Party Planning
Cindy Leuty Jones
Classic Party Rentals, Kenny Antonioli
Crater Lake Vodka
David Burke's Primehouse
Edwards-Lowell Furs
Ferragamo
Four Seasons Hotel
Joe Sorachana Florist
Ms. Margaret O'Conner
& Dr. Michael O'Meara
Ortolan, Chef Christophe Emé
Roberto Cavalli
Ryan Seacrest
The James Hotel
The Kitchen for Exploring Foods,
Peggy Dark

Enchanted Associates

Brooks Brothers
Christine Peters - Paramount Pictures
Epicuren

The Shave of Beverly Hills
Tic-Tock Couture Florist
Wessco International

Garden Lectures

"The Romance and Economy of Orchids" **Tom Henry of Orchids de Oro**

February 26, 2009

Tom Henry presented a slide presentation of the many ways in which his company uses orchids in interior design. Dramatic containers and magnificent plants blended with many different kinds of interiors creating magical environments. Tom brought a large selection of orchids that were available for purchase.

"Creating A Path of Fragrance in the Garden" **Director Tim Lindsay**

April 21, 2009

Tim Lindsay led the group "noses in the air" to discover the garden from an entirely new perspective. Fragrant favorites were peppermint geranium, pineapple sage, lavender, jasmine, Pittosporum tobira, garden stocks and acacia.

Educational Lectures and Tours

“The Garden in your Jewel Box”

A Brief History of Nature in Jewelry Design

February 5, 2009
By Nancy Revy of Beladora.com – Kazanjian & Fogarty



Ricki Ring, Elizabeth Kollar,
Nancy Revy and Dani Lancer

From the prehistoric jewelry made of bones and feathers to the Mesopotamian and Egyptian masterpieces of the Ancient World to the delicate trace work of religious Renaissance embellishments, even the earliest jewelers found inspiration in nature.

Starting in the early 1700's, jewelry became a part of fashion as opposed to a sign of status. Women wore brooches, necklaces and earrings to highlight the prevailing romantic style of dress. Exotic flowers from all over the world began appearing in Europe further stimulating the imagination of jewelry and fabric designers. By the 19th century, during the Victorian Period, not only flowers, but also the shapes of birds, insects and animals became popular. As time went on, Art Nouveau, Art Deco, Retro and Mid-Century artists continued to find imaginative ways to interpret the wonders of nature. Collecting antique and designer jewelry is an endless source of discovery and delight. Nancy encouraged everyone to visit Beladora.com to see what treasures are currently available.

Botanical Illustration Workshop with Anne Marie Evans

February 10-14, 2009



Class of 2009

Every seat was filled for the 2009 Botanical Workshop. Fifteen students spent four days in the Pool Pavilion working on subjects selected from the Robinson Gardens. For Saturday's session, the class moved to another conservatory at the historic Doheny Mansion, Greystone. Once again by the final day, each student had made significant progress with a wonderful painting in hand, the proud result of many hours of hard work.

After the class, several students decided to extend the workshop to a weekly session in the Pool Pavilion with the goal of creating a florilgium for Robinson Gardens. **If you would be interested in participating, please call the Friends Office at 310.550.2068.**



Anne Marie Evans (center) critiques a student's work.

“Serious Play” – The Genesis of California Sportswear By Kate Spilker

March 5, 2009



Kerstin Royce, Kate Spilker,
Marge Karney, Marcella Ruble
and Tanya Norris

Kate Spilker, Curator of Costumes and Textiles at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, presented an illustrated lecture on the development of a distinct and revolutionary trend in fashion, known as “California Sportswear.” With the tourist industry pushing for a signature look to promote the California lifestyle of sun, sports and outdoor entertaining, designers introduced bathing suits, pool and patio wear, pants suits and sundresses in fabrics that evolved with the demands of American pre and post WWII manufacturing. Among the notable designers discussed were Fred Cole, Marian Deweese, Dede Johnson, Elsa of Hollywood, Louella Ballerino, Addie Masters, Adrienne and Rudie Gernrheit.

“Sending Flowers to America” Peggi Ridgeway and Jan Works

April 16, 2009

Authors Peggi Ridgeway and Jan Works presented the history of the American Florists Exchange. They shared the rich past of this historic landmark. Particularly compelling was the story of how the local flower growers came to the aid of their fellow Japanese growers when the Japanese were sent to internment camps during WWII. When the war ended, the Japanese flower merchants found their fields and businesses intact with all their rightful profits in the bank. “Sending Flowers to America” is a beautiful book and a wonderful gift for flower lovers everywhere.

Educational Tours and Lectures

UPCOMING EVENTS

The Magic and Mystery of Lotusland

Thursday, September 10, 2009

Gwen Stauffer, Executive Director of Lotusland, will give an illustrated lecture on Madame Ganna Walska and her gardens at Lotusland. Ganna Walska spent 43 years creating her masterpiece garden in Monticeto on 37 acres. At one point she auctioned off many of the jewels given to her by her 6 husbands to pay for the cycad garden. There will also be a plant sale of Ganna's favorites. Luncheon in the Pool Pavilion will follow.

Timing is Everything

Thursday, September 17, 2009

Tim Lindsay, Director of Robinson Gardens, will present ways in which to effectively program your irrigation systems and share helpful "hints" on how to keep your entire garden healthy and green. With present water restrictions, this lecture is a MUST for California gardeners.

The Gardens of Brécy: A Lasting Landscape

Thursday, October 1, 2009

Eric Haskell, Professor of French and Humanities Chair at Scripps College, will give an illustrated lecture on his recent book "*The Gardens of Brécy: A Lasting Landscape*." Brécy is France's most dazzling small-scale privately owned formal garden. The garden, located near the coast of Normandy, was constructed during the second half of the 17th century by an unknown landscape architect from the Le Bas Family. Eric Haskell will discuss Brécy and its place in the history of European gardens, landscape aesthetics and preservation of the arts created during the Sun King's glory. A book signing and luncheon will follow the presentation.

Design Perspective and Sustainability

Thursday, October 15, 2009

Good design should not only be beautiful, but sustainable. Tim Lindsay will demonstrate how he has created sustainable dramatic garden design throughout Robinson Gardens. Whether your garden is in the shade, on a hillside, in a riverbed, filled with old trees or basically pots, Tim will teach you how to make it work.

Floral Demonstration by Eddie Zaratsian

Thursday, November 12, 2009

Eddie Zaratsian of *Tic-Tock Couture Floral* is one of the most in-demand florists in Los Angeles. Those who attended our 2009 "...into the garden" Benefit Tour saw his dramatic display in the Loggia of orchids, green anthurium and hydrangea, framed by a screen of black bamboo and an enormous fan made of woven tropical greenery and masses of orchids. Eddie will create a variety of holiday arrangements that will be available for sale. A festive holiday luncheon will follow the presentation.

Healthy Plants Without Chemicals

Thursday, November 19, 2009

What did gardeners do before Ortho had a product to kill whatever "undesirable" crept into the cabbage patch? A watchword for gardeners...if it's not good for bugs, it's not good for you. Director Tim Lindsay will present ways to care for your garden without using harsh chemicals. You'll be amazed at how easy and fun it can be.

Urban Trees

Thursday, January 21, 2010

Do you have trees that litter your pool, drop sap on the sidewalk, need pruning every year, lift the driveway or crack cement? Is your neighbor in the midst of a remodel, now looming over your garden? Tim Lindsay will show you how to effectively use trees in your Urban Landscape. Learn the characteristic of the top ten trees for your Westside garden.

Cultivating Man and Nature: The Novels and Gardens of Edith Wharton

Thursday, January 14, 2010

Frank Dwyer, poet, playwright, theater director, actor, and frequent lecturer in the Los Angeles area, will lecture on the novels of Edith Wharton. He has taught Shakespeare and Theater History at CalArts and the University of Redlands, and the popular cluster course "Inside the Performing Arts" at UCLA. A luncheon with the author will follow the presentation.

"Friendly" Books Worth Reading



Wicked Plants, The Weed That Killed Lincoln's Mother & Other Botanical Atrocities

by Amy Stewart, Etchings by Briony Morrow-Cribbs, Drawings by Jonathon Rosen

Want to create a "drop dead" bouquet? Among your choices would be larkspur, delphinium, lily-of-the-valley, sweet peas, tulip, hyacinth, alstroemeria,

chrysanthemums, foxglove and hydrangea – all are toxic to varying degrees causing nausea, vomiting, breathing problems, skin rash, weakness and sometimes death. Wicked Plants is full of fascinating historical accounts of the effects of plants before their chemistry was known. The text, illustrations and graphic design make this book the perfect gift for gardeners and non-gardeners alike.



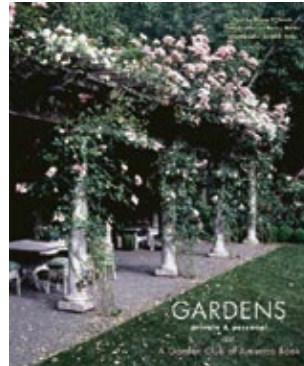
Flower Hunters

by Mary Gribben & Frank Gribben

The flower hunters were intrepid explorers - remarkable, eccentric men and women who scoured the world in search of extraordinary plants from the middle of the seventeenth to the end of the nineteenth century, and helped establish the new science of botany. For these adventurers, the search for new, undiscovered plant specimens was

something worth risking - and often losing - their lives for.

From the Douglas-fir and the monkey puzzle tree, to exotic orchids and azaleas, many of the plants that are now so familiar to us were found in distant regions of the globe, often in wild and unexplored country, in impenetrable jungle, and in the face of hunger, disease, and hostile locals. It was specimens like these, smuggled home by the flower hunters, that helped build the great botanical collections, and lay the foundations for the revolution in our understanding of the natural world that was to follow. Here, the adventures of eleven such explorers are brought to life, describing not only their extraordinary daring and dedication, but also the lasting impact of their discoveries both on science, and on the landscapes and gardens that we see today.



Gardens Private and Personal: A Garden Club of America Book

by Nancy D'Oench, Bonny Martin, Mick Hales (Photographer)

Experience 93 Garden Club of America member gardens through 256 captivating pages and 250 stunning photographs. Gardens Private & Personal is a treasure to own...and the

perfect gift! Your purchases will provide valuable support to The Garden Club of America.



The Enchanted April

by Elizabeth Von Arnim

Two proper Englishwomen, determined to get away from their drab lives and inattentive husbands, find paradise in the serene Italian countryside. Beautifully written and full of wonderful garden descriptions. A blissful summer read.

"That last week the syringa came out at San Salvatore, and all the acacias flowered. No one had noticed how many acacias there were till one day the garden was full of a new scent, and there were the delicate trees, the lovely successors to the wistaria, hung all over among their trembling leaves with blossom. To lie under an acacia tree that last week and look up through the branches at its frail leaves and white flowers quivering against the blue of the sky, while the least movement of the air shook down their scent, was a great happiness. Indeed, the whole garden dressed itself gradually towards the end in white, and grew more and more scented. There were the lilies, as vigorous as ever, and the white stocks and white pinks and white banksia roses, and the syringa and the jessamine, and at last the crowning fragrance of the acacias. When, on the first of May, everybody went away, even after they had got to the bottom of the hill and passed through the iron gates out into the village they still could smell the acacias."

What garden literature have you enjoyed? Send your suggestions to The Friends of Robinson Gardens at friendsofvrg@gmail.com

Volunteer Opportunities



WELCOME New Tour Docents!

Sue Fado Sylvia Pinter Georgette Gadey

New volunteers are being sought for the docent program at Robinson Gardens. Outgoing, enthusiastic people – both men and women – are welcome to join us for training sessions to learn more about the history of Robinson Gardens and the many projects that are in progress. All training sessions are from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Participants should be prepared to take copious notes.

Cameras and tape recorders are encouraged.

2009-2010 DOCENT TRAINING SCHEDULE:

October 29, 2009
10 a.m. to 12:30 PM

February 25, 2010
10 a.m. to 12:30 PM

July 29, 2010
10 a.m. to 12:30 PM

**COME LEARN ABOUT BEING A DOCENT AT VIRGINIA ROBINSON GARDENS
AND BRING A FRIEND!**

Interested in becoming a docent? Please call Jesse Harris at 310.550.2065

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**LOS ANGELES COUNTY,
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
AND RECREATION**

**Managing Director,
Virginia Robinson Gardens**
Timothy Lindsay

Message from the County

TIM LINDSAY – DIRECTOR OF ROBINSON GARDENS

FLUTTER-BY'S

By Timothy L. Lindsay



Originally the insect that we call a butterfly was commonly referred to as a flutter-by, which in most respects is a more accurate description of this fanciful creature. While most

everyone can identify a monarch butterfly, few people realize there are over 20 species that call the West Coast home.

All are beautiful to look at, but what does this curious creature do in our gardens? They are designed by nature, like bees, to help pollinate flowers, resulting in seed and fruit production. And like bees, the butterflies are totally unaware they play such an important role in the perpetuation of life on earth.

There are four steps in the lifecycle of a butterfly. Life begins as an egg, laid on the underside of a leaf. This soon gives rise to the larva, also known as a caterpillar. In this stage of life, it is important the egg had been deposited on a tasty host plant, so food is ample for the emerging caterpillar. Because this is essentially the teenage stage in the life of a butterfly, vast amounts of plant material are devoured in a short period of time to support its rapid growth. After only a few weeks of feeding, the caterpillar has stored enough energy to enter the 'Pupa' stage. This is the start of a major metamorphosis; it's magical, it's amazingly complex and results in a butterfly emerging from the pupa. Naturally, the life cycle of the butterfly is a source of inspiration for the arts.



Achillea (Yarrow)

Butterflies have been depicted in many cultures including Egyptian hieroglyphs 3500 years ago. They have inspired jewelry. You can find them mounted in a frame, embedded in resin, laminated in paper, and used in some mixed media artworks and furnishings. Many examples of butterflies in the decorative arts can be seen at the Robinson estate.

In order to attract butterflies to your garden, you will need to plant host plants and nectar plants. The host plants support the larvae stage of the butterflies' life cycle, while the nectar plant supports the mature butterfly.



Centranthus ruber (Jupiters Beard)

Here is an abbreviated list of plants for your consideration. Try to choose native plants, instead of exotic plants that tend to use more water and other resources to maintain.

To attract Butterfly Larvae: (Annuals and Perennials)

- *Achillea millefolium* (Common yarrow)
- *Antirrhinum majus* (Snap dragon)
- *Aster* spp
- *Eriogonum* (Wild Buckwheat)
- *Helianthus* (Sunflower)
- *Mimulus aurantiacus* (Sticky Monkey Flower)
- *Alcea rosea* (Hollyhock)
- *Asclepias tuberosa* (Butterfly weed)
- Broccoli, cabbage, mustard
- *Foeniculum vulgare* (Common Fennel)
- *Malva* (Mallow)

To Attract Butterfly larvae (shrubs and trees)

- *Ceanothus* (Wild Lilac)
- *Populus* (Poplar tree)
- *Malus* (Flowering crab apple)

Plants for Adult Butterflies (annuals and perennials)

- *Achillea* (Yarrow)
- *Aquilegia* (Columbine)
- *Centranthus ruber* (Jupiters Beard)
- *Cosmos*
- *Erigeron* (Fleabane)
- *Zauschneria* (California Fuchsia)
- *Agapanthus* (Lily-of-the-Nile)
- *Borago officinalis* (Borage)
- *Coreopsis*
- *Dianthus barbatus* (Sweet Williams)
- *Salvia elegans* (Pineapple Sage)

Plants to attract for Adult Butterflies (Shrubs and Trees)

- *Abutilon* (Flowering maple)
- *Buddleia* (Butterfly bush)
- *Rosmarinus officinalis* (Rosemary)
- *Arbutus menziesii* (Madrone tree)
- *Vitex* (Chaste Tree)
- *Arctostaphylos* (Manzanita)
- *Ceanothus* (Wild lilac)
- *Sambucus* (Elderberry)
- *Citrus*

By cultivating a few of the plants listed here, you will enjoy the motion and exquisite color of the butterflies attracted to your garden. You need not be a lepidopterist to attract and nurture butterflies, but by following the simple recommendations here, you will add a wonderful new dimension to your garden. Enjoy the summer and may your garden grow ever more filled with the silent motion and vibrant colors of the flutter-bys.

Historical Perspectives



The Virginia Robinson Estate includes many beautiful pieces of decorative porcelain. From the number of figurines that are found in the house, we know that Mrs. Robinson clearly enjoyed and admired the delicacy and romance of 19th century decorative art. This Dresden candelabra is one of two that can be found in the Living Room. The cameo-like face, encircled by flowers and fanciful butterflies, is set off by a petal motif that surrounds the lower part of the base. The face appears on both sides of the piece.

“Dresden” porcelain refers to an artistic movement that emerged in Germany in response to the rise of “Romanticism” during the 19th century. Dresden was

an important cultural and intellectual center, which attracted painters, sculptors, poets, philosophers and porcelain artists. In 1863, four prominent ceramic decorators registered the now famous blue crown Dresden mark. The secret of hard paste porcelain, believed to be the exclusive knowledge of Chinese and Japanese exporters, was actually discovered in the city of Dresden in 1710.

Regrettably, much of the work and history of all the porcelain produced in Dresden was destroyed during WWII. However, because of the vast popularity of the Dresden style, many exquisite pieces remain preserved in museums and private collections.

Restoration Secures the Future of Virginia Robinson Gardens

Over the last three decades, Friends of Robinson Gardens, in cooperation with the County of Los Angeles, has extensively restored the interior of the Robinson residence. Additionally, many of the architectural components of the Italianate buildings and associated hardscape are now refurbished and restored. As we continue to restore fabrics and furnishings and catalogue artifacts, The Virginia Robinson Gardens gets closer to achieving American Association of Museums certification.

We invite you to fill out the enclosed donor envelope and contribute in any amount towards the continuing restoration of this unique cultural treasure. We deeply appreciate all that you have done and continue to do in preserving the legacy of The Virginia Robinson Gardens.

We have listed to the right a few of the restoration projects we hope to accomplish in the next five years.

MRS. ROBINSON'S CARD ROOM Est. cost: \$25,000

Mrs. Robinson's Card Room, located on the second floor of the Pool Pavilion, houses personalized Pompeian style paintings and an assortment of 18th and 19th century furnishing. This room requires environmental control and stabilization of fabrics and surfaces.

ITALIAN TERRACE GARDEN Est. cost: \$10,000

This beautiful garden has undergone partial renovation this year and we hope to continue other projects in this area.

MASTER BEDROOM BALCONY Est. cost: \$50,000

At the west end of the main house, our visitors will be able to stand on the recreated balcony to appreciate the recent restoration of Mrs. Robinson's master suite and experience the wonderful views Mrs. Robinson saw each morning.

STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS Est. cost: \$125,000

After 98 years, the infrastructure of this historic residence continues to require significant upgrades and repair. Now that so much has been done with the interior restoration, we need to install a museum quality A/C and heating system to insure the longevity of our restoration.