

# *Virginia Robinson Gardens*

*Fall/Winter Newsletter 2011*

President – Jeanne Anderson

Editor – Nancy Miller

1008 Elden Way, Beverly Hills, California 90210

310.276.5367

[www.robinsongardens.org](http://www.robinsongardens.org)







# Message from the President

JEANNE ANDERSON — PRESIDENT 2010-2011



As we inaugurate our Centennial year, I feel fortunate to be working with such an energetic and spirited group of Friends. One hundred years ago, Virginia and Harry Robinson moved into the first estate built north of Sunset. Their creative talents turned this once barren land into the paradise we now preserve and share with the public. The Friends have planned myriad celebrations throughout the year. In January our benefactors were treated to lunch in Virginia's dining room. On Feb 11, the Friends will acknowledge the contributions of all our past presidents with a Valentine luncheon.

This year the "...into the garden" Benefit Tour, Under the Tuscan Sun, is chaired by Greer Saunders and Sunday Taylor who are diligently planning the event, which will take place on May 13, 2011. Our Mediterranean theme will highlight the world of fragrant citrus groves and terraced gardens, which enchanted the Robinsons, and inspired the Pool Pavilion and many of our "*splendidi giardini*."

September 10, 2011, the Centennial Gala: *A Century of Gracious Living* celebrates the anniversary of the Robinsons' first month in their home. Our gala chairs Adrienne Horwitch and Kerstin Royce are planning an exciting evening, where guests will walk through time with entertainment and music throughout the estate.

The Friends also acknowledge the Centennial year with an ambitious restoration project in the kitchen. Restoration chairmen Ellen Levitt and Rita Rudin have completed extensive research to make sure the improvements are historically correct, while also providing modern efficiency.

In addition, *Harry and Virginia Robinson Create Beverly Hills' First Estate* will be released in September 2011. After years of research and development, Marcella Ruble, Evie Carlson, Maralee Beck and Tim Lindsay will produce a book about the Robinson estate. The response to our funding campaign has been outstanding. I would like to extend my sincerest gratitude to everyone who has contributed to this important project.

Recently, I overheard someone say, "Virginia Robinson Gardens is Los Angeles County's little Hearst Castle." For all who visit, it is a priceless gift, a magical place, a moment in time, and for some an opportunity to stop and remember.

*Jeanne Anderson*

## SAVE THE DATE

» CENTENNIAL GALA CELEBRATION «  
"A CENTURY OF GRACIOUS LIVING"

Recipient of the Spirit of Beverly Hills Award

*Joan Selwyn – Founder of the Friends of Robinson Gardens*



**SEPTEMBER 10, 2011**



# Membership Luncheon



PHOTO CREDIT: CINDY LEUTY JONES

New members (top row, left to right): Myna Gintel, Brenda Cooke, Anne Koral, Lyn Fair, Susan Rosenthal, Lili Sandler, Beth Karmin, Kathie Johnson (Friend).  
(bottom row, left to right): Margy Hudson, Elise Reagan, Vicki Victor, Virginia Kazanjian, Clarissa Ru

With temperatures hovering around 100 degrees on September 30, 2010, thirteen of our new Friends were given a WARM welcome to Virginia Robinson Gardens. The day began with a tour of the gardens conducted by docent Roberta Nicholson, followed by an orientation meeting in the Pool Pavilion, where Committee chairman presented involvement opportunities and answered questions. At noon, returning members met the new Friends at a cocktail reception on the Italian Terrace.

A delightful luncheon followed. There was a special table for past presidents: Joan Selwyn, Phoebe Vaccaro, Donna Wolff, Linda Ford, Elissa Bregman, Tracy Smith, Kathy Toppino, Debra Shaw, and current president, Jeanne Anderson.

Once again, Kim Gregory of Christofle, Beverly Hills, made it possible for each member to have a lovely gift to remember the day. Thank you to Membership Chairs Marion Buxton, Amy Swartz and Cynthia Tribull for arranging this beautiful event.



Current President Jeanne Anderson with past Presidents Tracy Smith, Kathy Toppino, Phoebe Vaccaro, Debra Shaw, Donna Wolff, Joan Selwyn, Elissa Bregman and Linda Ford.



Membership luncheon décor



Ellen Lipson, Virginia Kazanjian and Cindy Fields



March Wiseley, Nancy Scott, Shiva Moshtael and Kathy Toppino



Reception on the Mediterranean Terrace

## WELCOME NEW FRIENDS

|                    |                    |                    |
|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Karen Breslow      | Margaret Hudson    | Susan Rosenthal    |
| Brenda Cooke       | Beth Karmin        | Clarisa Ru         |
| Lyn Fair           | Virginia Kazanjian | Beth Rudin DeWoody |
| Rhona Gewelber     | Anne Koral         | Lili Sandler       |
| Diane Gewertz      | Marguerite Lindsay | Vicki Victor       |
| Myrna Robin Gintel | Elise Reagan       | Julie Williamson   |



# 2010 Children's Holiday Party



Mr. & Mrs. Claus (Rolf and Leslie Tillmann),  
Madeline Lindsay and "Scary Larry" (Larry Flint)



(L-R) Cathy Kurstin, Grace Breuer, XXX,  
Jacquie Tesoriero, Cynthia Tribull at the Snowball Toss.



Rainbow Nail Salon volunteers  
Anne Koral, Marlene Evarone, Erica Harris,  
Linda Ford and Kerstin Royce.

Cirque de Noël, a Christmas circus, was the inspiration for the 2010 annual Children's Holiday Party. Members of the Friends, dressed as Santa's elves greeted our guests from Maryvale, Hillside, and Hathaway-Sycamores. To begin the festivities, volunteers from the Robinson Garden docents led sixty children in groups of ten through the Mediterranean Garden, where they came upon a "professional" elf juggling handfuls of oranges with the greatest of ease, and enjoyed a refreshing glass of lemonade. At the front gate, Mr. and Mrs. Claus (Leslie and Rolf Tillmann) and an enchanting dancing Christmas tree (Madeline Lindsay) gave them a royal welcome.

Then in the Palm Grove, there was another surprise: an elf on stilts high in the trees looking for the owls that were released in the grove two years ago. Next came the Kitchen Garden where our staff volunteer, Lucia Burke, her basket brimming with vegetables that grow in the garden, described the pleasures of gardening. Suz Landay was also there, telling stories about Mrs. Robinson's many pets and her monkey cage from which iridescent bubbles drifted high into the air. The final stop was the aviary complete with CJ Forray and her gorgeous parrot, Rainbow.

At the end of the tour, Cirque de Noël was in full swing. There were activity booths for painting coffee mugs, crafting festive paper chains or having a colorful manicure. Those who were up for a challenge participated in the Gold Fish Toss, Holiday Bowling or the Cuddly Critter Catapult. Smiles were plentiful, with every child winning armfuls of stuffed animals, soccer balls, toys, calculators, travel games, bracelets and more. Pie 'N Burger of Pasadena served delicious hamburgers and salads with a smorgasbord of pies for desert. During lunch, entertainers from Celebration Sensations and Scary Larry, the magician, were on hand. When it was time to go home, every child had a framed portrait with Santa, a duffle bag of presents and prizes galore.

This wonderful day would not be possible without the hard work of the Children's Holiday Party Committee and the generosity of our members, their friends and the community. The Friends wish to thank everyone who participated.



Bianca Costin serves holiday beverages.







## SECRET SANTAS

Elissa Bregman  
Dole Corporation  
Dorothy Kamins  
Cathy Kurstin

CHIQUE DE NOËL



## HOLIDAY ANGELS

Carolyn Bloom  
Nancy Miller  
Nancy Scott



## SUGAR PLUM FAIRIES

Regina Drucker  
Cindy Fields  
Kathy Toppino  
Susan Werner

## TREE TOPPERS

Diane Gewertz  
Myrna Robin Gintel  
Rosanna Grabel  
Marge Karney  
Shiva Moshtael  
Elise Reagan  
Susan Rosenthal  
Julie Williamson



## DOCENTS

Elyse Babtakis  
Kathleen Campbell  
Vassilia Cosma  
Sue Fado  
Barabra Fries  
Audrey Jessup  
Aleta Knight  
Suz Landay  
Sylvia Pinter  
Pauline Mayer  
Chuck Tellalian

Thank You!



## HOLIDAY PARTY COMMITTEE

|                    |                   |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| Jeanne Anderson    | Cathy Kurstin     |
| Brenda Cooke       | Elise Reagan      |
| Linda Ford         | Susan Rosenthal   |
| Cathy Johnson      | Kerstin Royce     |
| Virginia Kazanjian | Greer Saunders    |
| Leslie Kavanaugh   | Jacquie Tesoriero |
| Anne Koral         | Susan Werner      |

## EXCEPTIONAL ELVES

|                       |                    |                     |
|-----------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| Jeanne Anderson       | Audrey Jessup      | Linda Meadows       |
| Maralee Beck          | Kathy Johnson      | Kerstin Royce       |
| Robin Blake           | Beth Kamin         | Debra Shaw          |
| Angela Cohen          | Virginia Kazanjian | Cynthia Tribull     |
| Jill and Lily Collins | Julia Klein        | Elinor Turner       |
| Marlena Evarone       | Anne Koral         | Stephanie Vahn      |
| Linda Ford            | Ellen Lipson       | Barbara Yaroslavsky |
| Katrina Fuchs         | Barbara Marcus     |                     |





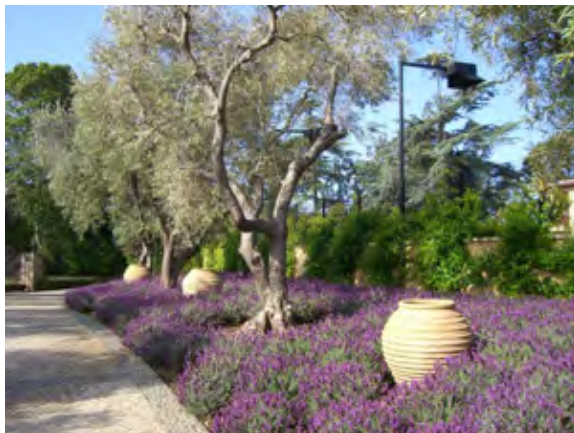
# *Private Garden Tour*

with landscape designer **MARCH WISELEY**

## **Special Garden Tour for Members Only**

October 7th dawned sunny and clear, the air cleaned by recent rains, enhancing the views to the ocean from four gardens designed by **Stone Canyon Gardens** located along the Amalfi Rim of the Pacific Palisades.

Thirty Friends met at a French Normandy inspired home and garden overlooking Rustic Canyon and the ocean beyond. Nancy, our ahostess was generous enough to share her aerial photographs, before and after views of the garden's transformation in 2007. The next garden, a Tuscan inspired villa, was in the middle of a photo shoot for the upcoming movie *Jack and Jill*. The crew took a break so we could visit the glorious garden. There were two exciting



aspects to this garden: the maturity of the first phase of the garden in contrast to when it was on the Robinson Garden tour in 2006, and the integration and expansion of the garden onto the neighboring lot. The third stop was an evocative Italian garden where we were greeted by the owner and enjoyed its romantic environment to the point that no one wanted to leave. The final visit was to an Andalusia themed home and garden, which

opened up through an inner courtyard to a spectacular 270-degree view of the ocean and mountains.

The Bel Air Bay Club was the perfect ending for this wonderful day where a lovely lunch awaited the Friends, as the blue Pacific reflected a perfect day in Southern California.

*March Wisely*

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## *Huntington Garden Fellows Dinner*

Every now and then, an opportunity comes along to do something truly wonderful. Visiting the Huntington Library and Botanical Gardens is one of those opportunities, but having dinner in the Chinese Pavilion is not only wonderful, it is exceptional! That was the great good fortune of the Fellows of Robinson Gardens. On October 16, 2010, Jim Folsom, Director of Huntington Gardens and Judy Plunkett, Head of the Huntington Fellows, welcomed us to a “behind the scenes” tour of the gardens, where new collections from Mexico, South America, South Africa and other regions are cultivated for planting at the Huntington and for distribution to other botanical gardens, plant science professionals and amateur horticulturalists. We were guided through enormous hot houses, filled with an exciting array of plants, some of which seemed to be growing before our eyes.

Our group also visited the Children's Garden, created to provide young visitors, primarily ages two to seven, with hands-on experiences that demonstrate scientific principles related to earth, fire, air, and water. Plants such as topiary animals, weeping mulberry trees, papyrus, and tree aloes create a whimsical atmosphere.

After the tour, there was a wine reception to view an orchid exhibition. Then, as an early sunset cast a golden light that seemed to lead the way across meandering paths and romantic bridges, we came upon the Chinese Pavilion, Liu Fang Yuan, “where nature's artistry and the spirit of poetry bloom in harmony.” There we shared the company of Friends while enjoying a delectable Asian dinner. It was a memorable evening. Virginia would have loved it!



*Tania Norris, Jeanne & Robbie Anderson*



*Judy Plunkett, head of Huntington  
Fellows and Leslie Kavanaugh*



*Audrey Jessup, Andy and Julia Klein*

# Educational Lectures and Tours

## “The Art of Flora and Fauna by Maria Sibylla Merian”

September 22, 2010

Dr. Stephanie Schrader - Associate Curator of Drawings at the Getty Museum



After teaching at UCSB and conducting research on her dissertation in Amsterdam, Stephanie Schrader took on insect metamorphosis and botanicals with the loan exhibition of Maria Sibylla Merian: Women of Art and Science in 2008. Maria Sibylla Marien, an intrepid 17th century Dutch woman, along with one of her daughters, journeyed twice from Holland to Surinam in Central America. She drew and painted from live specimens the exotic flowers, fauna and insects of Surinam. As a girl of thirteen, intrigued with insects, she was the first to scientifically prove that butterflies and moths came from larvae and caterpillars. With a background as a researcher and printer, her ensuing volumes are among the most treasured natural history books ever produced.

## Fall Entertaining with Peggy Dark Peggy Dark of Kitchen for Exploring Foods

October 14, 2010



### Menu

Asian Pear, Persimmon, and Marcona Almond Salad  
Roasted Butternut Squash with Chickpeas and Cumin  
Lolipop Lamb Chops with Fresh Mint Relish  
Snow Pudding (Oeufs à la Neige)



Peggy Dark, spoke to a sold out audience, eager to know just how she does it. Celebrating 30 years of excellence in catering, Kitchen for Exploring Foods, reflects her dedication to quality, her limitless creativity and her eye for detail. Warm and engaging, Peggy cooks delicious, unpretentious but elegant food and is one of the most popular and successful caterers in Southern California.

All of the recipes for this delectable meal can be found in Peggy's book co-authored with Mark Held and Richard David of Mark's Garden, ***Fabulous Parties: Food and Flowers for Elegant Entertaining***. The new paperback edition is available at her shop in Pasadena, or online via Amazon.com.

## “Organic Kitchen Gardens” John Lyons, The Woven Garden

October 29, 2010



Paul Lyon demonstrates his techniques for vegetable gardening.



From the moment John Lyons begins to speak, it is clear that gardening is not only a passion, but also a way of life. His lilting Irish brogue immediately engages his students, who quickly begin taking notes and asking questions. Preaching the gospel of organic gardening and “edible landscapes,” John begins with the soil. He demonstrates how a garden can be beautifully structured and productive with trees, vegetables, flowers and herbs all harmoniously growing and providing food throughout the year. We ended the morning in Virginia Robinson's kitchen garden planting herbs and vegetables for the coming winter and spring.



# Educational Lectures and Tours

## BOTANICAL ILLUSTRATION WORKSHOPS

### “Complete Flower Painting”

August 4-6, September 1-3 and October 6-8, 2010

Margaret Best, Instructor



*“I can help you with that,” exclaims Margaret, pointing to a muddy patch on the painting. “It’s not you, it’s the pigment,” she explains. “Without the right pigment, it’s impossible.”*

For Margaret Best, a noted Canadian botanical watercolor artist, anything is possible. She is an expert on color pigments. Her approach to teaching watercolor painting is to first select your paints carefully, then study the subject and mix the colors you will use in your painting. Once your colors are established, her students are taught to create remarkable depth and texture by layering one color over another. While giving individual instruction, Margaret also paints throughout the week, demonstrating her lessons with skill and humor. Over the course of the summer and fall, students gained substantial skills and were able to complete an exemplary botanical watercolor.

### “Everything I Needed to Know I Learned from Jane Austen.”

November 16, 2010

Charles Lynn Batten – Professor of English UCLA

Professor Batten manages to be both an erudite scholar and a witty storyteller. There is a twinkle in his eye when he poses the question, “*Why is Jane Austen’s writing so universally and timelessly appealing?*” Professor Batten argues that she is giving us truths about life - truths about people, human behavior, and self-knowledge. In our own lives we know the people that populate Austen’s novels. These are characters we recognize as being true. We face many of the same challenges her characters face. Considering that in her whole life, Jane Austen never traveled further than one hundred and fifty miles from home, it’s amazing that she knew so much about life and human nature.

*Excerpted from S. Taylor Blog*



### Rise and Sprawl: How Los Angeles Came To Be

January 19, 2011

Jim Heimann, Author and Exective Editor of Taschen America



*Jim Heimann and Marcella Ruble*

Cultural anthropologist and graphic design historian Jim Heimann is author of numerous books on architecture, pop culture, and the history of the West Coast, Los Angeles, and Hollywood. His unrivaled private collection of ephemera has been featured in museum exhibitions around the world and dozens of books. Mr. Heimann illustrated his lecture with many early photos of Los Angeles, The Plaza (Olivera Street) and Spring Street. He has researched Los Angeles history for over 30 years. The current book includes over 500 images! We hope Mr. Heimann will return to Robinson Gardens to share more of his exciting work.





# Educational Lectures and Tours

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### “The History and Cultivation of the Camellia”

February 16, 2011

**David Brown, Executive Director and Brian Sullivan, Director of Horticulture, Descanso Gardens**

David Brown & Brian Sullivan will explore the relationship between the care of two of their iconic collections, the California Live Oak and the Camellia Collection and explain how best to care for your Virginia Robinson Camellia. Before the area was opened to the public as Descanso Gardens, the land was an oak forest. In the late 1930's and 1940's, publisher E. Manchester Boddy built an estate, Rancho del Descanso, where he planted thousands of camellias in the shade of the oaks. The flowers were sold in the downtown wholesale flower markets.

### “Travels, Botany, Alchemy & Color:

**Unexpected connections in the Getty Rare Book Collections.”**

March 16, 2011

**David Brafman, Rare Books, Getty Museum**



David Brafman is Professor of Classics and Arabic, author, PhD. (Duke University) and curator of the first traveling exhibit sponsored by the Getty Institute, “Past Perfect.” Each year the institute selects a conceptual theme, which acts as a catalyst for programming research and the study of art. The Getty Research Institute is an operating program of the J. Paul Getty Trust. It serves education in the broadest sense by increasing knowledge and understanding about art and its history through advanced research. The Research Library's special collections include rare books, artists' journals, sketchbooks, architectural drawings and models, photographs, and archival material.

### “Which silver to use? What wine to serve? Who sits next to whom?”

**Celebrating the memory of Ivo Hadjiev**

When someone mentions a butler, there are a number of wonderful characters that come to mind. To name a few: Jeeves, (*P.G. Wodehouse; Jeeves was actually a valet*), Angus Hudson (*Upstairs Downstairs*), Jennings (*Gosford Park*), Benson Dubois (*T.V. serial Soap*), Coleman (*Trading Places*), and now Mr. Carson (*Downton Abbey*). In honor of Ivo Hadjiev, Virginia Robinson's major domo, who also served as her butler, we celebrate this time-honored position.



**A quick quiz: what is the difference between a butler and a valet?**

**Butler** – the male head servant in a large or important household with responsibilities that include overseeing the other staff, taking care of the wine and silverware and sometimes receiving guests.

**Valet** – a male personal servant of a man, whose duties include looking after his employer's clothes and providing his meals.

## BOTANICAL ILLUSTRATION WORKSHOPS

**Botanical Illustration - Instructor: Anne Marie Evans**

**Feb 22-25 & Feb 28–March 4, 2011**

Director of the diploma course in botanical painting at the Chelsea Physic Garden in London, Anne Marie Evans returns to Robinson Gardens for the fifth straight year. Among the suggested subjects will be the Virginia Robinson camellia. Paintings that meet established standards of excellence may be considered for the Virginia Robinson *florilegium*.



**Botanical Illustration - Instructor: Elaine Searle**

**March 28–April 1, 2011**

Graduate of the English Gardening School's Botanical Painting. Work included in the Highgrove Florilegium, under The Prince of Wales's Charitable Foundation, Member of the American Society of Botanical Artists, exhibited in the 12th International Exhibition of Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation in Pittsburgh in 2007. We are delighted to welcome Elaine Searle to Robinson Gardens.



**Painting on Vellum - Searle**

**April 4-6, 2011**





Aleeta Knight



Chuck Tellalian



Kathleen Campbell



Elyse Babtkis



Lucia Burke



Ann Grodin



Sylvia Pinter

# A Docent's Tale

By Jesse Harris

*When in April the sweet showers fall  
That pierce March's drought to the root and all  
And bathed every vein in liquor that has power  
To generate therein and sire the flower:*

CANTERBURY TALES 1400

Not just in spring, but every month of the year, the Robinson Gardens are full of life and color. Many enthusiastic tourists expect to meander through the gardens discovering what they can; instead, they are greeted by knowledgeable docents, who enhance the visitors' experience and bring the spirit of the Robinsons back to life.

A typical tour begins in the Pool Pavilion where docents introduce Virginia and Harry Robinson as they were at the time of their marriage, by showing family photographs from the early 1900's. The presentation covers the colorful history of the Robinson and Dryden families, Robinson's Department Stores, the construction of the Beaux Arts home (1911), Renaissance Pool Pavilion (1924), and various chapters in the creation of the gardens. After the orientation, visitors are taken into the family residence, kept as it was in 1977, when Virginia Robinson died at the age of 99. From there, the visitor's are taken on a walking tour of the gardens to enjoy the wonderful variety of plants and learn about the challenges presented by the precipitous land elevations and growing conditions. Through their interpretation and visual guidance, our docents add significantly to the tourists experience, affording them a "once in a lifetime" opportunity.

Docent trainings are held several times in the year. We welcome new volunteers at any time. Docents are given instruction on how to deliver an oral history and interpret the gardens and residence with descriptive stories that will transport the visitor back in time. Periodic review sessions include the docent manual, botanical plant lists, public speaking techniques, and video documentaries. In addition, new docents are required to observe veteran docents until they are confident with the material. Please contact Jesse Harris at 310.550.2065 or email [jharris@parks.lacounty.gov](mailto:jharris@parks.lacounty.gov), to learn more about our upcoming docent training program.

**Docent led tours are available  
Tuesday – Friday at 10:00a.m. or 1:00p.m.,  
by appointment only by calling 310.550.2065  
or email [visit@robinsongardens.org](mailto:visit@robinsongardens.org).**



Jeanne Anderson



Kate Oatland



Don Phillipp



Pat Ordenheide



Sue Fado



Kate Lee



Audrey Jessup & Bobby Furrey, Docent Liasons



Vassilia Cosma



Terri Fox Stayner



# Message from the County

TIM LINDSAY — SUPERINTENDENT OF ROBINSON GARDENS

## THE INTRIGUING WORLD OF SUCCULENTS AT ROBINSON GARDENS.

By Timothy L. Lindsay



What are succulents anyway? Succulents are drought tolerant plants that store water mainly in their leaves when water is ample and slowly utilize it during drought periods. In the animal kingdom, the camel, with its humps, shares this similar water storing strategy. The most familiar succulents are cacti.

Virtually all cacti are succulents, but not all succulents are cacti. There are two difference groups of succulents; those that evolved in Africa and those that evolved in the Americas. New World plants called cacti all have spines. No succulents from the “Old World” (Africa) have spines. Increasingly over the past five years, succulents have been incorporated in public and private gardens, particularly in Southern California. It is not only the practicality of these marvelous plants that have brought them to such popularity; it is their intriguing colors and growth patterns. The same green rose shaped plant that appeals to the eye in miniature can grow to an enormous size, taking on an almost surrealistic quality.



Professional landscapers have taken to this somewhat simple plant and utilized it in mass plantings to achieve dramatic contrast of color and form. In other instances, they highlight just a few succulents

to make a bold architectural statement. Here at Robinson Gardens succulents are most compatible with the water regime of the Italian Terrace garden, which receives only limited irrigation in the driest summer months.

If succulents are given too much water, the plant cells burst, which then provides possible entry for disease organisms. On the other hand, succulents are very forgiving and will not bulk and shrivel when forgotten or neglected. In fact, if they are stressed from dehydration, once watered, they will be restored within 24 hours.



Succulents are particularly effective when presented in pots. It is interesting to contrast the animate and inanimate in shape and texture. In the Italian Terrace Garden there is a marvelous Italian marble font planted with *Kalanchoe thyrsiflora*, ‘Bronze Sculpture.’ It is by far the most admired and photographed succulent in the garden.

Another favorite is *Kalanchoe pumila*, because its color tonality makes concrete planters come alive. A succulent that is presented in mass is *Aloe arborescens*. This plant, as the name implies, becomes tree like and produces flowers that resemble red-hot poker.

Propagation is as easy as one, two, three. Asexual propagation is the method of choice with succulents. Simply cut off a stem with at least five nodes (places along stem where the leaves are attached), stick two of the nodes in a very gritty-sandy soil, and in just a few weeks, presto you have a clone of the parent plant. The key to growing succulents is to give them well-drained soil that is low in nutrients, provide lots of sun so they will color up, and avoid over watering. Ideally, succulents prefer daytime temperatures between 70°F and about 85°F and nighttime temperatures between 50°F and 55°F, although they can tolerate as low as 40°F.





**2011 “...into the garden” BENEFIT GARDEN TOUR**

# Under the Tuscan Sun

**Grand Marshal – John And Bridget Martens**

Mr. Martens is General Manager of Neiman Marcus, Beverly Hills

Mrs. Martens is a former president of the Friends of Robinson Gardens

**Friday, May 13, 2011 – 10:00am - 4:00pm**

Five distinctive private gardens and four special events  
in one spectacular benefit at the Robinson Estate.

- Design and Floral Exhibitions at the Robinson Estate
- Al Fresco Luncheon and Fashion Show
- Floral Workshop
- Belle Cose Boutique
- Outstanding Opportunity Drawing and Silent Auction.

Invitations will be mailed on April 1st.

For tickets or further information go to [www.robinsongardens.org](http://www.robinsongardens.org)

