

Virginia Robinson Gardens

Fall/Winter Newsletter 2012

President – Jeanne Anderson

Editor – Nancy Miller

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Message from the President

JEANNE ANDERSON — PRESIDENT 2011-2012



This year's Patron Gala, A Century of Gracious Living, was filled with music, moonlight, monkeys, swimmers, tennis players and dear friends. The rich legacy of the past was gracefully linked to the present with a party inspired by the society write-ups and endless stories from those who knew the Robinsons best.

The proceeds from the Centennial Gala and our annual Benefit Garden Tour are used for the ongoing restoration of this 100-year-old estate. Those who attended these events had the opportunity to hear the lovely sound of Dale Witt playing on the completely restored 1911 Chickering Parlor Piano. J.R. Berens is to be commended for undertaking this massive project, which included restringing, replacing needed parts and refinishing the exterior of the piano. In addition, Restoration Chair Ellen Levitt engaged Scott Flax, an architectural colorist, to determine the color palate for the dining room, morning room and entry hall. Mr. Flax took into account how the light (both natural and artificial) related to the color values. At the time the painting was done, the Friends also updated the electrical wiring in these rooms.

Other restoration projects recently completed:

- A pair of paintings depicting architectural ruins from the XIX Century Italian School which hang in the living room have been cleaned and repaired.
- The Louis XV style fauteuils (armchairs), also part of the living room ensemble, have been restored and recovered in German Beaton velvet very similar to the original fabric.

I want to thank everyone whose generosity makes it possible to maintain the great vision of Harry and Virginia and their desire to share it with all of us.

Jeanne Anderson



*1911 Chickering Parlor Piano
restored by J.R. Berens.*

*Repaired and restored
19th Century Italian School
paintings and Louis XV chairs.*

*Dale Witt charms the Gala
guests with his beautiful music.*





Kerstin Royce, Jeanne Andersen,
Joan Selwyn, Zev Yaroslavsky,
and Adrienne Horwitch



Impersonator Charlie Chaplin,
Donna and Martin Wolff
and impersonator Mae West



Aqualilies performing in the estate pool.



Shari Weiner
and her dog,
Princess

One Hundred Years of Gracious Living

Virginia Robinson Gardens Centennial Patron Gala

On September 10, 2011, excitement filled the air at 1008 Elden Way. By five o'clock, the stage was set for the Virginia Robinson Gardens Centennial Gala. **Gala Chairman Adrienne Horwitch and Co-chairman Kerstin Royce** were at the front door to greet the guests. Also on hand was "Princess," Shari Weiner's standard poodle, reminiscent of Mrs. Robinson and her beloved dogs. This was just the beginning of the early evening festivities which included tours in the garden complete with monkeys in the monkey cage, old movies of the Robinson family in the Pool Pavilion, the original work of artist Jennifer Steinkamp in the library, and Hollywood celebrity impersonators Charlie Chaplin and Mae West representing some of the guests who actually frequented Virginia Robinson's parties.

On the tennis court, members of the Beverly Hills Tennis Club re-enacted the lively tennis games that took place regularly when the Robinson's entertained. Later an aquatic dance company, *Aqualilies*, performed in the pool, while guests sipped cocktails and enjoyed delectable hors d'oeuvres.

With the background of a glorious sunset, an al fresco dinner was served on the Great Lawn. In tribute to Mrs. Robinson, her favorite color pink was used in the centerpieces composed of pink roses, blush toned hydrangeas and succulents, all complimented by pink pashmina shawls draped over the back of each lady's chair. Paul Magers of KCBS acted as Master of Ceremonies. **Joan Selwyn, Founder of Friends of Robinson Gardens**, was awarded the **Spirit of Beverly Hills Award** for her outstanding leadership in establishing the organization that would preserve and promote this remarkable historic landmark. County Supervisor **Zev Yaroslavsky** was also honored as "Centennial Champion" for his vision and endurance, helping Friends protect Robinson Gardens and share its beauty with Beverly Hills and the greater Los Angeles community.

Dancing and the music of *Art Deco* were enjoyed throughout the evening. The final highlight was an auction conducted by Sotheby's Elizabeth Osborne. Tempting luxury items, trips and underwriting for priority restoration projects at the Robinson Estate and Gardens were among the presented opportunities.



Centerpieces by Mark's Garden



George and Kerstin Royce,
Gala Co-Chairman



Harvey, Laura
and Tatianna Alpert



Martin and
Carolyn Bloom



Members of the Beverly Hills Tennis Club



Art installation
by Jennifer Steinkamp



Edward Fleming Call & Yan Sung Fleming Call
with Nancy Dowey (Virginia Robinson's niece)
and Carrie Ketchum



Guests review Auction items

"A Century of Gracious Living" was a spectacular evening thanks to the vision and talent of Gala Chairman Adrienne Horwitch and Co-chairman Kerstin Royce and the entire Centennial Gala Benefit Committee:

Jeanne Anderson

Maralee Beck

Robin Blake

Carolyn Bloom

Ellisa Bregman

Evelyn Carlson

Brenda Cooke

Bianca Costin

Leslie Kavanaugh

Cindy Fields

Julia Klein

Anne Berit Koral

Cathy Kurstin

Ellen Levitt

Ellen Lipson

Nancy Miller

Ann Christie Petersen

Marian Power

Jackie Tesoriero

Leslie Tillmann

Greer Saunders

Shari Weiner

Jamie Wolf

Donna Wolf



Cece and Michael Karz



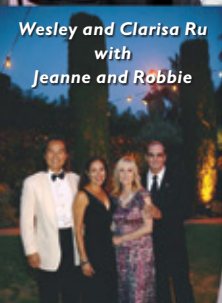
Sunday Taylor, Greer Saunders,
Cindy Fields



Alan Harris, Evelyn Carlson,
with Marcella Ruble



Zev Yaroslavsky, Adrienne and Elliott Horwitch,
Barbara Yaroslavsky



Wesley and Clarisa Ru
with
Jeanne and Robbie



March Wiseley, Tim Lindsay
and his daughter Madeline Lindsay

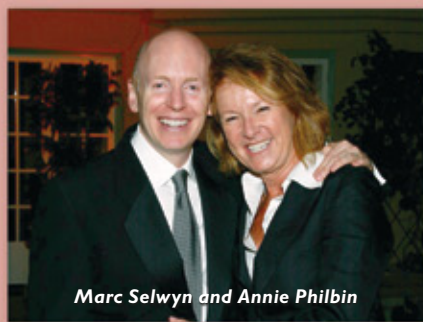


Kirk Douglas, honoree Joan Selwyn
and president Jeanne Andersen



Paul and Joan Selwyn with daughter Laura
and son-in-law, Geoff Wyatt





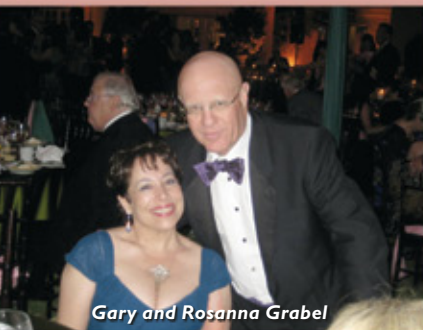
Marc Selwyn and Annie Philbin



Bruce and Regina Drucker



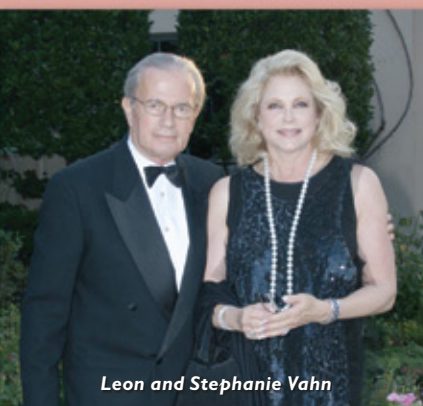
Ron and Cathy Kurstin
with Jackie and Joe Tesoriero



Gary and Rosanna Gabel



Friends Past Presidents,
Maralee Beck and Barbara Namerow



Leon and Stephanie Vahn



Ann Peterson and Leslie Pam



Andy and Amy Schwartz



Minton Ritter and Tania Norris



Julie Spira and David Press with
Marti and Tony Oppenheimer



Andrew and Julia Klein (center) with their family and friends



Scott and Sunday Taylor with Susan and Don Walerstein



Peter and Suz Landay



Susan and Kenneth Cohen



Annie and Glenn Hopkins
with Doris Alexander



Tyson Weihe and Marian Power

*Our deepest thanks to the donors who supported our record breaking
Centennial Auction which will fund future restoration projects
at Virginia Robinson Gardens.*

Jeanne Anderson
Jackie Applebaum
and Stephen Sheanin

Maralee Beck

Robin Blake

Carolyn Bloom

Lucia Burke

Angela Cohan

Cynthia Fields

Bobbie Furrey

Michele Gamsu

Anna Koral

Jeff and Margy Hudson

Jay Leno

Kathryn Johnson

Dorothy Kamins

Suzanne Kayne

Ron and Cathy Kurstin

Tim Lindsay

Ellen and Mark Lipson

Marbara and Mike Malamat

Carol Mancino

Barbara Marcus

Linda Meadows

Nancy Miller

Tania Norris

Paul and Shark Yachting

Ann Christie Petersen

Marian Power

Susan Rosenthal

Wesley and Clarissa Ru

Amy and Andy Swartz

Nancy Scott

Joan and Paul Selwyn

Lisa Smith

Leslie and Rolf Tillmann

Charles and Kathleen Toppino

Elyse Walker

March Wiseley

Jamie Wolf

Beverly Hills Hotel

Brentwood Restaurant

Bulgari

Carolina Herrera

Christofle Paris

Collette D'utry

Crustacean

KCBS Radio Station

Krista Everage Design

For the Love of Home

Gearys of Beverly Hills

Gift of Garden Antiques

Beverly Jackson

Kier Design

LACMA

Harold Lancer M.D.

Kazanjian Jewelry

Koan

Matsuhisa

Montage Hotel

Patina-Rays Restaurant LACMA

Poppy Childrens Store

Peninsula Hotel

Roumiana Entchevska—The Hub

Barbara Lazaroff—Spago

Vincente Restaurant

Sotheby's



2011 Membership Luncheon

“MAKING NEW FRIENDS”

Once again the new members of the Friends of Robinson Gardens were treated to a warm welcome. On October 12th, with temperatures hovering around 92 degrees, we were delighted to have eight of the thirteen new members as our guests. The day began with a Continental Breakfast and brief introduction by Friends President Jeanne Anderson, followed by a tour of the gardens with docent Suz Landay. Then, the new members returned to the Pool Pavilion for a welcome by Superintendent Tim Lindsay, Botanical Illustration Program Coordinator Tania Norris, Children's Holiday Party Chairman Susan Rosenthal, and Annual Benefit Tour Chairman Greer Saunders.

After this full morning, we all adjourned to the Mediterranean Garden for appetizers, lavender hibiscus lemonade and other icy spirits, including the California Dreamin' signature cocktail. On the back terrace in the “cool” shade, we enjoyed a buffet lunch by The Kitchen for Exploring Foods, a beautiful array of seasonal salads, assorted finger sandwiches, and irresistible desserts.

WELCOME TO THE GARDENS

June Bilgore
Marcie Bronkar
Cynthia Chvatal-Keane
Beverley Jackson
Jeanine Dalis Klima
Worthy McCartney
Marti Oppenheimer
Lulu Powers

Susan Rifkin
Ariela Shani
Juliette Telander
Susan Walerstein
Reba Williams
Alyce Williamson
Wendy Wintrob



Kathleen Spiegelman
with Tracy Smith



New Friends: Lulu Powers, Marcie Bronkar, Caran Sealey,
Wendy Wintrob, Jeanine Klima, June Bilgore and Susan Rifkin



Past presidents, Tracy Smith, Claudia Deutsch, Debra Shaw,
current president, Jeanne Anderson and Founder, Joan Selwyn



Julia Klein, Katrina Fuchs, Lyn Fair



Luncheon chairman, Cynthia Tribull
with Greer Saunders, Nancy Miller
and Jeanne Andersen



“Flower Cakes”
and décor by Abutilon



Myrna Gintel, Brenda Cooke, Jeanine Klima,
Krista Everage and Jackie Tesoriero



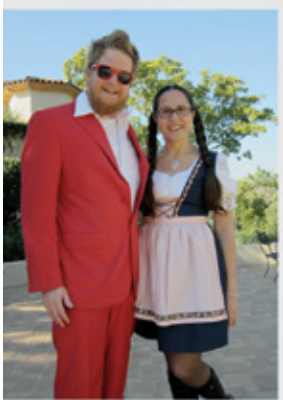
Jamie Wolf



2011 Childrens Holiday Party

CIRQUE DE NOËL

**“The best of all gifts around any Christmas tree:
the presence of a happy family all wrapped up in each other.”**



Cirque del Noël 2011 was more precisely a happy family surrounded by trees, all wrapped up in each other, even if only for a few hours. **Susan Rosenthal, Event Chairman** and volunteers from *Society and Friends of Robinson Gardens* happily welcomed 60 children from four group homes and domestic shelters in the greater Los Angeles area to our holiday carnival, *Cirque de Noël*. The day began with docent-guided tours of the specialty gardens, followed by games and crafts, followed by lunch provided by *Pie & Burger of Pasadena* and entertainment by *Celebration Sensation*. For the second year, *Patrick Connor* and his merry band “wowed” the audience with juggling tricks, marvels on a monocycle and all around wonderful fun. Also on the team were

Chris the Juggler, Big Red the Balloon Artist, Johnny the Magician and Sam Rosenthal, the Music Man. In addition, *Abigail Rosenthal*, was the quintessential “*Sugar Plum Fairy*” greeting the children

in the Mediterranean Garden resplendent in her sparkling tutu and iridescent wings. *Abigail* and Santa’s helper, *Marian Power* served early refreshments of lemonade and miniature gingerbread men.

Throughout the day, the children participated in making candy wreaths, decorating picture frames for their photo with Santa, or having a manicure in the “*Rainbow Salon*.” Games included the Ice Hole Bean Bag Toss, Holiday Fish Bowl Challenge, and Cuddly-Critter-Catapult. Santa, *Rolf Tillmann*, and Mrs. Santa, *Leslie Tillmann*, were on hand for photos and gifts. This year’s Holiday Elves were *Cindy Fields, Robin Blake, Jeanine Klima, and Ellen Vahan*.

The children were given large colorful Santa Sacks (laundry bags) in which to collect the prizes they earned for their efforts. Due to the generous support of Friends, Society Members and the community, a marvelous assortment of board games, authentic sports balls, stuffed animals of every size, stocking stuffers, puzzles and more were available in the prize booth.



This special day would not have been possible without the efforts of many people.

Holiday Hip, Hip Hurray to...

Susan Rosenthal, Chairman – wizard of wonder – spirit of the season personified. Bob and Ellisa Bregman, sincerest thanks for the colorful “Santa Sacks.” **Kathie Johnson** and **Elise Reagan**, Registration Captains for keeping lists and checking them twice. **Greer Saunders**, Captain of the Prize Booth, for making dreams come true and managing the “flow.” Captain **Anne Koral** for her attention to detail and her delightful “Rainbow Salon.” **Jeanne Anderson**, our President, for constant support, docent coordination and the lemonade stand. **Rodney Kemerer** and **Lindsay Doran** for T-shirts, posters, activity books and Smurfs. **Nancy Miller** for games, picture frames and cyber prompts. **Julia Klein**, Captain of the Candy Wreath Booth for enthusiasm and fun. **Wendy Wintrob**, Captain of the Decorate-A-Frame Booth for enchanting embellishments. **Cathy Kurstin** and **Jackie Tesoriero**, Captains of the Fish Bowl Challenge for perfect aim and endless energy. **C.J. Forray** for bringing her parrot, **Tigerlily**, a highlight of our Holiday Garden Tour.

Volunteers

Jeanne Anderson	Suz Landay
Maralee Beck	Ellen Levitt
June Bilgore	Mary Helen Michel
Robin Blake	Nancy Miller
Ellisa Bregman	Tania Norris
Marcie Bronkar	Marian Power
Lucia Burke	Lulu Powers
Angela Cohan	Elise Reagan
Vicky Corbell	Susan Rosenthal
Barbara Dohrmann	Kerstin Royce
Marlene Evarone	Lili Sandler
Lyn Fair	Greer Saunders
Cindy Fields	Nancy Scott
Myrna Gintel	Joan Selwyn
Rosanna Grabel	Sunday Taylor
Erica Harris	Juliette Telander
Zoila Hillier	Jackie Tesoriero
Audrey Jessup	Leslie Tillmann
Kathie Johnson	Cynthia Tribull
Marge Karney	Joan Waxtein
Leslie Kavanaugh	Wendy Wintrob
Virginia Kazanjian	
Julia Klein	
Jeanine Klima	
Anne Koral	
Cathy Kurstin	

Docents

Lucia Burke
Kathleen Campbell
Sue Fado
Ann Grodin
Pauline Mayer
Sylvia Pinter
Chuck Tellalian

Holiday Angels

Jan Cook
Bob and Ellisa
Bregman
Dorothy Kamins
Barbara Jaynes
Susan Rifkin
Wendy Wintrob

Sugar Plum Fairies

Jeanne Anderson
Dain and Eric Blair
Jeanie Hatch
Jean Kaplan
Mary Helen Michel
Nancy Miller
Marti Oppenheimer

Exceptional Elves

Doris Alexander
June Bilgore
Jill Collins
Lily Collins

Mary DeKernion
Barbara Dohrman
Regina Drucker
Jackie & Randy
Edelman
Cindy Fields
Katrina Fuchs
Robertta Furrey
Betty Goldstein
Diedre Gordon
Laurie Hartigan
Barb & Randy Himes
Hallie Holtzman
Audrey Jessup
Beth Karmin
Catherine Kaufman
Marcy Brubaker
Ellen Levitt
Liz Hirsch
Pauline Mayer
Susan Meals
Pamela Norrell
Ricki Ring
Susan Rosenthal
Kerstin Royce
Nancy Scott
Sunday Taylor
Susan Werner
March Wiseley
Barbara Yaroslavsky

Tree Toppers

Cessie Barbour
Robin Blake
Betsy Bosak
Angela Cohan
Vicki Corbell
Diana Doyle
Marlene Evarone
Sue Fado
Lynn Fair
Rhonda Gewelber
Rosanna Grabel
Linda Meadows
Marian Power
Cynthia Tribull
Elinor Turner
Julie Williamson
Liz Woodard



Educational Lectures and Tours

Montecito Fellows Garden Tour Coordinated by Sherry Light

October 2, 2011



The Virginia Robinson Fellows enjoyed a sophisticated mix of garden visits in Montecito. Our 'Vacation for a Day' started at the home of Sherry and John Light with mimosas and homemade Kansas City cinnamon rolls. The Lights designed their strolling garden using drought tolerant plants native to California and Australia. There is an elliptical planting area around a sculpture by Gene Flores that is planted with annuals grown from seed. Sherry guided us through her clever arrangements of paths interwoven with drifts of color. To our surprise and delight, this lady knew the Latin name of every plant and tree on her property. An added treat was a tour of the Light's art collection, which included sculptures by Robert Graham acquired in the 1970s.

Our next visit was to Sharon Branford's California Hacienda where every doorway opens to a series of enclosed spaces each with a water feature. Her four dogs roam the citrus garden under-planted with fragrant plants. Moroccan gates, collected on their travels, are used between the gardens and the house. The skillfully chosen plants come from her family's nursery, San Marcus Growers, which specializes in appropriate plants for our climate. Not surprising that her family, one of the founders of Beverly Hills, were also friends with the Robinsons, whom she visited as a child.

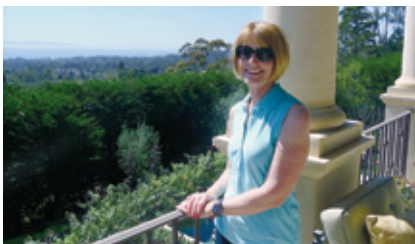
Our third picturesque garden belongs to one of our early board members, Sally Enthoven. This two-acre historical treasure has several heritage oak trees and a creek that runs through it. Sally has spent several years re-organizing and planting whatever appeals to her. The artfully chosen plants have a unifying spirit, which compliment the stonewalls of their home, the carriage house to the first estate in Montecito. We were also treated to seeing inside this charming dwelling, defined by turn-of-the-century architectural detail.

Our final garden was nestled in the hills with spectacular views. Susanne Tobey designed clever boulder walls, terraces and walkways on three hilly acres. We wandered across bridges, streams and a labyrinth. A pergola is surrounded by her favorite roses, a perfect destination to rest and see the view. Everyday while walking her place of serenity and wonder, she is reminded of her favorite saying, "When the world wearies and society ceases to satisfy, there is always the garden."



*Home and Garden of
John and Sherry Light
featuring native
California plants.*

*Adrienne Horwitch,
homeowner Sally Enthoven
and Tania Norris in front of
the Enthoven's historic
carriage house.*



*Susanne Tobey
on the terrace of
her hilltop home
with a magnificent view
of the Pacific Ocean.*



*Sharon Bradford and Jeanne Andersen
in front of the Bradford California Hacienda.*

Educational Lectures and Tours

Lulu Powers, “Entertaining - From Food to Flowers”

September 28, 2011

Lulu Powers, one of L.A.’s premier caterers and event planners, gave a delightful lecture. Originally from Connecticut, she moved to Los Angeles and became a private chef to many Hollywood stars and celebrities. With her charming vivacity and creative ideas, Lulu gave many cooking and entertaining tips. Using colorful sarong scarves from H&M, she covered a round table as an example of festive decor.

She also signed copies of her new book: **Lulu Powers - Food to Flowers**, mentioning that the chocolate cake, a recipe from her mother, known from Malibu to Maine, is particularly good. The group enjoyed a delicious lunch in the Rose Garden. Different recipes from the book were featured in the luncheon, which ended with a wonderful banana zabaglione dessert.



Special Event – Bel Air Tour

October 18, 2011

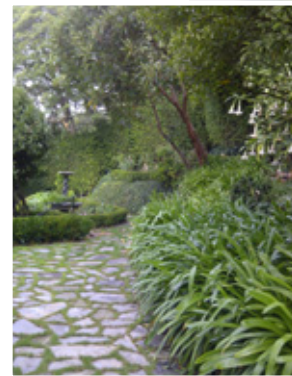
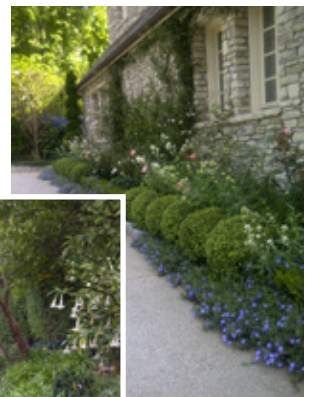


Bel Air was the place to be on Tuesday, October 18th when Jon Goldstein of Jonny Appleseed Landscape led the first designer tour through the grounds and gardens he renovated at the Hotel Bel Air. The Friends members were divided into three groups so that each tour had the benefit of an intimate dialogue.

Jon’s work was a ‘Labor of Love’ as he had many fond childhood memories of time spent visiting this iconic property. He wanted to retain the

mature plants and recreate the plant palette that we are all accustomed to seeing at the Hotel. All larger trees and shrubbery were boxed, held on site, and re-planted in the garden to maintain a mature ambiance. Correcting and upgrading the infrastructure problems to take advantage of modern water saving technologies was another important goal. As we strolled the paths we all know and love, we all felt that the garden remains one of the best parts of the Hotel Bel Air.

In addition to the hotel gardens, two private gardens close by were opened to the Friends as part of the day’s activities. The designer March Wiseley led the tours explaining the issues and objectives the clients wished to address and how those directives were achieved. As the morning concluded, we all agreed that we had gained helpful information and ideas worthy of repeating in our own gardens.



Cooking Class – Scuola di Mozza

November 8, 2011

Mario Batali and Joe Bastianich are the distinctive forces behind an eclectic group of critically acclaimed, unanimously adored restaurants in New York, Las Vegas and Los Angeles. *Pizzeria Mozza*, *Osteria Mozza* and *MOZZA2GO* are operated in Los Angeles in collaboration with Nancy Silverton.

Chad Colby, Executive Chef of *Scuola di Mozza* taught the Friends about pizza. Attendees included Jeanne Anderson, Maralee Beck, Pamela Beck, Kristina Campanelli, Cindy Chvatal, Lyn Cohen, Cindy Fields, Myrna Gintel, Margy Hudson, Doanne Kasicki, Kerstin Royce, Cynthia Tribull, Susan Walerstein.

Margy Hudson organized the event.

Holiday Décor with Joey Corrigan of Sticks & Stones

November 10, 2011

Joey Corrigan from **Sticks and Stones Floral Design** regaled the group of attendees with a wonderful presentation of flower arrangements that were lush and romantic. “Arranging mixed flowers is like throwing a cocktail party. You have to decide who you want to invite!” explained Joey. “Every time I place a flower, it has to have a relationship with another flower,” he added. Using a small plaid suitcase as a container, he created a beautiful tableau with lime green hydrangeas, burgundy dahlias, persimmons, pale apricot roses (called combo roses), fema roses, and maple and oak leaves. For the opening gala of the Philharmonic, Joey used white ostrich feathers and orchids in a silver bowl, creating a delicate shimmering aura. Brunch was served during the presentation, and one lucky lady won the drawing for the beautiful arrangement of mixed flowers.



Educational Lectures and Tours

UPCOMING EVENTS

“Debut Cooking Class in the Newly Restored Kitchen”

January 11, 2012

Presentation by Chef Vanessa DiStefano

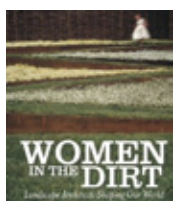
January brings us a cooking class and lunch with Chef Vanessa DiStefano of *Sur la Table*. When Vanessa visited our newly restored kitchen, she was taken with Mrs. Robinson's style of entertaining, as well as, the formality of her daily meals. Vanessa has a variety of background food experiences, including having worked with Chef Bobby Flay of the Food Network.

“Women in the Dirt” directed by Carolann Stoney

January 25, 2012

Recipient of the 2009 American Society of Landscape Architects

Student Honors Award in Communication



The Friends will present *Women in the Dirt*, a groundbreaking work of seven landscape architects. Their projects combine awareness of architectural and landscape principles, concern with sustainability, safety and beauty. The scope of their work ranges from private homes to vast public projects. Through conversations with the landscape architects in their offices, or in the stunning spaces they've designed, the film explores each woman's personal aesthetics and approach to their discipline. *Women in the Dirt* shows how these “masters of the obvious” create the sublime.

“The Prize of All Too Precious You”

February 9, 2012

by Jonathan Post, Chair of the UCLA English Department

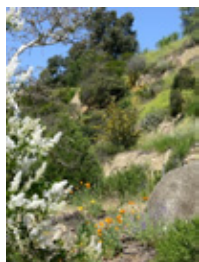
Virginia Robinson loved classic literature and intellectual inquiry. In that spirit, we look forward to having Jonathan Post lecture on Shakespeare's sonnets with an emphasis on garden and romantic themes in honor of Valentine's Day. Mr. Post is a distinguished professor of English at UCLA since 1980, where he has served as Chair of the Department and has twice been Interim Dean of Humanities. He is the current Director of the *UCLA Summer Shakespeare Program in Stratford and London*. A luncheon will follow the lecture.



“Native Plants in your Garden”

February 15, 2012

By Lili Singer, Theodore Payne Wildflower and Native Plant Foundation



Lili Singer, affiliated with the *Theodore Payne Wildflower and Native Plant Foundation*, will speak on native plants for your garden. Founded and incorporated in 1960, the Theodore Payne Foundation promotes the understanding and preservation of California native flora. Located in Sun Valley, California, the foundation maintains a Native Plant Nursery, which is open to the public year round. The Foundation shop offers California native plants, their seeds and books.

“Beverly Hills First Estate

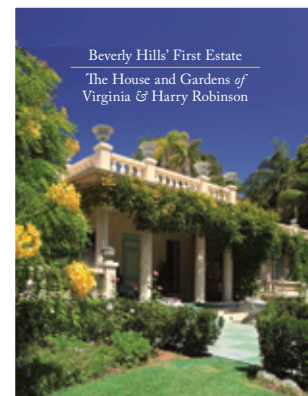
March 8, 2012

The House and Gardens of Virginia & Harry Robinson”

Timothy Lindsay, Evelyn Carlson and Marcella Ruble, Authors



Superintendent Tim Lindsay, currently in charge of the restoration and preservation of Virginia Robinson Gardens, Evelyn Carlson and Marcella Ruble, long standing Board members, will present their new book. All three authors have extensive backgrounds in historical research, writing, and teaching in gardening and the arts. The book itself is beautiful, and full of old photos and interesting anecdotes. A luncheon will follow the presentation.



Educational Lectures and Tours

UPCOMING EVENTS



“The Magical World of Succulents”

March 21, 2012

Patricia Cevallos, Pacific Succulents

Patricia Cevallos of Pacific Succulents will speak on the many varieties of succulents and creative ways in which to use them. **Pacific Succulents** may be found in booths at several Farmer's Markets throughout the Southland.

“Women in Chinese Culture and Tradition”

April 11, 2012

Beverly Jackson, Author, Lecturer and Collector of Chinese Textiles



Ms. Jackson attended UCLA, USC, Otis Art Institute, and Kahn Art Institute. In 1963 Beverly moved to Santa Barbara, CA and for almost 25 years wrote the tri-weekly column “By the Way” for the Santa Barbara News Press. She was the winner of the California Photography Contest of the *Los Angeles Times*. Beverly is an international lecturer on the Chinese culture including Chinese foot binding. She has authored or co/authored seven books currently in publication. Her

collection of Chinese textiles and imperial robes have been exhibited in special museums including the Pacific Asia Museum in Pasadena. Beverly is also a Friend of Robinson Gardens.



“Care & Feeding of Roses, New and Old”

April 25, 2012

Tommy Cairns, Rosarian

The Friends are delighted to welcome back world-renowned rose expert Tommy Cairns for another informative and entertaining lecture on everyone's favorite flower. Dr. Tommy Cairns is the past president of the *American Rose Society*, past President of the *World Federation of Rose Societies* and many other prestigious garden organizations. He is curator of the *Pageant of Roses Garden* at Rose Hills Cemetery, which features more than 600 varieties of roses. The Pageant Garden was awarded the coveted *Public Rose Garden Achievement Award*, designating it the most outstanding rose garden in the nation.



“History of the Beverly Hills Hotel”

June 7, 2012

By Robbie Anderson, Author



In honor of the Beverly Hills Centennial anniversary, Robbie Anderson will present a slide presentation based on the material in his newly written book, *The First Hundred Years of the Beverly Hills Hotel*.^{*} Mr. Anderson's great-grandmother, Margaret Anderson, founded the hotel one hundred years ago. A magnificent iconic landmark of world famous Beverly Hills, its history

parallels the development of the West Side of Los Angeles and the increasing prominence of the entertainment industry. Robbie Anderson is a commercial real estate owner and developer, serves as a Beverly Hills City Commissioner, and has served on various committees within the city.



^{*}Available in 2012

Community Outreach

Food Forward comes to Robinson Gardens



Food Forward's mission is to reconnect people with people – through food – by bringing together volunteers and neighbors to share in the gleaning and distributing of locally grown food from private homes and public spaces, which is then distributed to local food pantries and organizations

serving those in need. Combined, their numerous distribution partners provide food to more than 35,000 clients a month across Southern California.

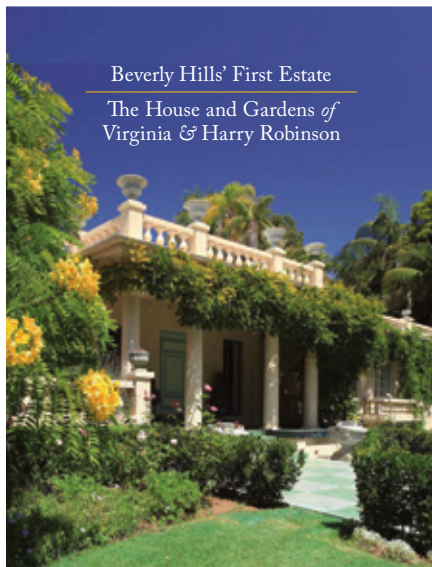
This year Virginia Robinson Gardens became a partner with Food Forward. On October 22, 2011 volunteers from Food Forward harvested 200 pounds of fruit in our gardens. We look forward to many future harvest events.



Beverly Hills' First Estate

**The House and Gardens of Virginia & Harry Robinson
available now for purchase.**

The first book about the Robinson Estate has been published. It is a wonderful gift for any occasion with beautiful pictures and the captivating story of the Robinsons. The book can be purchased online at www.robinsongradens.org or at the Gardens' Boutique. It is also available at the following locations:



Arboretum Gift Shop – www.arboretum.org

Autry Book Store – www.theautry.org

Book Soup – www.booksoup.com

Diesel Bookstore – www.dieselbookstore.com

Huntington Library Bookstore – www.Huntington.org

Kathleen Spiegelman Interiors – kspiegelman@yahoo.com

Language of Flowers – www.santamonicaflowers.com

Linens et Al – 165 N. Robertson Blvd, Beverly Hills - (310) 652-7970

Mayfair House – www.mayfairhouseinc.com

Tecolote Book Shop – Santa Barbara

Vroman's Bookstore – www.vromansbookstore.com

Message from the County

TIM LINDSAY — SUPERINTENDENT OF ROBINSON GARDENS

TREES PLAY THE LEADING ROLE IN LANDSCAPE DESIGN.

By Timothy L. Lindsay



Lights, camera, action! These words, when delivered by a director, start the scene in motion, and the movie magic begins. So too in nature, when TREES hit their mark with their magnificent display of color, performing the largest and most dramatic moment of the year.

Casting a tree in the theater of landscape design, like in the

movies, is no easy task. One must be critical and consider how each character plays off the other. It's all in the chemistry! Because of the time investment when making design decisions, they cannot be made in haste. Consider the time lost if you miscast the tree and it appears out of sync with the other cast members. For instance, imagine casting two trees, one that flowers pink and the other yellow. If they perform (flower) at the same time, one will certainly upstage the other. Everyone knows pink and yellow are not to appear together in the same scene. What is one to do - cut all the flowers off one tree so there is no visual conflict?

The tree, like the actor, is multi-dimensional. When casting a tree the director must consider its appearance and demeanor. The tree's various parts must be additive and congruent with other landscape elements, including both animate and inanimate objects that exist on the site. Consider the tree's bark color and texture, the canopy and its branching pattern; how large will it ultimately grow? The leaf shape and size combined to give the canopy texture. Soft textured trees recede, while bold textured trees advance, making small spaces seem even smaller. Next, if the tree is deciduous, what color will the foliage be in autumn? Will it produce fruit? These are just a few of the questions that need to be answered.

There are many variables in the orchestration of a seasonal show within a dynamic landscape environment, but the sun is a constant, rising in the east, setting in the west. Deciduous trees should be planted on the south and west sides of a residence. This type of tree provides shade in the summer, while in the winter, without leaves, the sun radiates warmth into the house through the windows. Plant evergreen trees on the north side of a structure to provide a wind break from the chilling winter winds.

In order to build drama in the garden, it is best to mimic nature: plant more than one of any type of tree, creating the tranquility and uniformity of a grove. Next, sit down and audition the candidates for the part. Avoid the tragedy of investing seven or even ten years nurturing a tree, only to discover it has grown too large for the space, or, heaven forbid, an overzealous root system lifts your neighbor's wall, sidewalk or driveway. This scene is totally avoidable by doing your research or consulting with an arborist or landscape designer. Mediterranean climate like Southern California are a rarity and compose only three percent of the earth's surface. Therefore, books on trees typically focus on trees for other climates. Be sure the book you reference is for your climatic zone.



In the theater of landscape, trees are the consummate performers and are on stage the longest; for this reason they are held in highest regard. People become accustomed to the protection they provide from harsh light and wind, and marvel at their color and variety. Trees are in truth a silent presence in our world, yet they command our attention and fascinate us with their unique personalities throughout the year.

Why Do Leaves Change Color in the Fall?

Temperature affects the rate of chemical reactions, including those in leaves. However, it is essentially the amount of light (sun) that is responsible for fall foliage: the brighter the sun, the brighter the colors. A high level of chlorophyll is the active agent that makes a leaf green, masking other pigments in the leaf. Light regulates chlorophyll production. As autumn days grow shorter, less chlorophyll is produced causing the green color to fade from leaves. At the same time, surging sugar concentrations cause increased production of anthocyanin pigments. Leaves containing primarily anthocyanins will appear red. Carotenoids are another class of pigments found in some leaves.. Carotenoids can be orange, yellow, or red, but most are yellow. Leaves with good amounts of both anthocyanins and carotenoids will appear orange.

CALIFORNIA DREAMIN'

2012

"...INTO THE GARDEN" BENEFIT TOUR

Grand Marshals

Tim Street-Porter and Annie Kelly

FRIDAY, MAY 18, 2012 – 10:00 A.M. TO 4:00 P.M.

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

**Design and Floral Exhibitions
in the Robinson Residence**

**Fabulous Opportunity Drawing
and Silent Auction**

Spring Luncheon and Fashion Show

Floral Workshops

California Classics Boutique

For tickets and further information go to www.robinsongardens.org

Invitations will be mailed on April 2, 2012