



Dear Friends,

I love calling all of us friends. While we are the Friends of Robinson Gardens, we have become such dear friends working together in support of all the programs and restoration projects for this historic estate.

We had many fabulous events in August, September, and October and this coming year we look forward to many more wonderful events along with the pleasure of preparing them for all to enjoy.

We are very fortunate that our Superintendent, Tim Lindsay, will be giving gardening lectures on the last Wednesday of November, January, February, March, April and June. In addition, on Dec. 17th, Tim is giving a presentation on his experience as one of three judges of the floats in the 2016 Rose Bowl Parade.

December will be a month full of new experiences for us with some novel activities. On December 3rd, Robinson Gardens will have a poinsettia lecture, which will include the sale of incredible poinsettias for adorning your home or to purchase as hostess gifts. Additionally, Mrs. Robinson's home will be decorated in the style of the 1950 Holiday Season—as Virginia would have done. Ornamented Christmas trees will be placed in the home as they were in 1950. We will have several events where all can relive past Christmases. Be sure to mark the December 10th Open House on your calendars! We will even have vendors on site so you can do your holiday shopping on that day.

2017 is full of exciting events. I can't even begin to list them all, but will tell you about a few. March 17th is the annual Children's Science Fair. Each year, this event provides a deeper understanding of plant science with children from all backgrounds.

May 20th is the 29th annual Garden Tour. This year's theme is "Legendary Beverly Hills," and it will most certainly be a legendary event! To end our year of events and programs, the Friends will present, "Opera on the Great Lawn" on June 24th. This operatic experience will be our first event of its kind, as it ties into the 40 years that Mrs. Robinson hosted the Hollywood Bowl benefactors' party on the Great Lawn.

I look forward to sharing all of these exciting events with you!

~Marian Power

If you want to find out more about these events as well as other activities, or if you want to join the Friends or become more involved, please visit our website www.robinsongardens.org. You can also contact our Director, Lynda Curland at: info@robinsongardens.org or 310-550-2068.

Virginia Robinson's Love of Italian Gardens - La Dolce Vita Style!

The Robinsons conducted a life-long love affair with La Dolce Vita. They built the Italianate Revival Pool Pavilion in 1925; it was an adaptation of the Villa Paisani's stables. The Roman pool edges out to an antique marble table in the style of ones that can be seen in the Antiquity Collection at the Getty Villa. Some of the statuary that still stands at the Gardens today came from their frequent trips to Italy.

Daily, Virginia looked out from her boudoir and bath at the Italian Terrace Garden and enjoyed the view of plants from both Southern California and Italy, with their similar Mediterranean climates: multilevel combinations of edibles, such as pomegranates, citrus, and persimmons alongside flowering agapanthus, iris, and camellias. Neptune, a prize from their Italian shopping excursions, stands in the fountain at the base of the cascading musical stairs and waters.

One of the best assets of Robinson Gardens, Virginia's beloved third Major Domo Ivo Hadjiev, came to her through a connection at the Vatican. Ivo had fled his native Bulgaria and worked in the City. A match was made to bring him to Beverly Hills, where he served Virginia to the end of her days in 1977 (four months shy of her 100th birthday!) He then lived on at the Estate until his death in 2008. Ivo helped to facilitate the transition of VRG into the County's Arboreta system and mentored the volunteer group, the Friends of Robinson Gardens, who continue to support LA County's mission to preserve and promote Robinson Gardens.

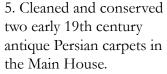
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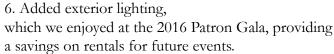
Superintendent Timothy Lindsay discusses the completed projects of 2017

Many thanks go to the benefactors of the Friends of Robinson Gardens whose generous contributions funded numerous projects that were successfully completed this year. Here is a list of the 2016 projects:

- 1. Restored and conserved the Moorish style, hand painted ceiling in the Solarium of the Pool Pavilion built in 1925. Restored the original paint color for the walls and molding in the Solarium.
- 2. Restored the Marble Terrazzo flooring in the Solarium and at the rear terrace of the Main House.
- 3. Restored two 19th century Italianate-style grandfather clocks, one in the Main House museum and the other in the Pool Pavilion. Both now keep perfect time and chime on the hour and half hour.
- 4. Restored wall and molding colors, and the oak floor in the Master Suite and Dressing Room of the Main House.







7. The pair of early 20th century Japanese Red Crown Cranes that grace the Great Lawn at Virginia Robinson Gardens were restored to their original elegant stature.

8. Replaced the 5,000 square foot front lawn and created a native meadow from seed. This helped meet the 33% water reduction required by the city of Beverly Hills. Additionally, the meadow provides habitat for bees, butterflies and humming birds. The conversion from high water use lawn to wild meadow, watered just once every seven days, has been extensively followed by the Beverly Hills Courier newspaper, providing positive ways for the community to meet the water

9. Improved the function and efficiency of the irrigation system that services the 6.5 acre gardens.

reduction mandate without sacrificing the beauty of our city - see cover image of

10. Improved the Display Rose Garden by adding historically appropriate companion plants and new tea roses.

11. The restoration of the pool replaced broken tiles with replicas to match the original design. Additionally, the pool



12. Last but not least, the Terra Cotta Lions that oversee the magnificent Italian Terrace Garden were restored.



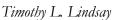




this newsletter.



The Friends of Robinson Gardens deeply values the cultural heritage preserved in this "First Estate of Beverly Hills" and enjoys sharing it with all who visit the house museum and extensive gardens. Thank you again to all for being a part of preserving this historical treasure.







hanks to our very dynamic and talented co-chairs Nicole Antoine, Kathy Choi, Diane Jenkins and Dana Reston Lyons and dedicated Garden Tour Committee, the Virginia Robinson Garden Tour this year was a fabulous event. It was a day of incomparable beauty, elegance and fun, with the "De Colores" Latin theme reflected in the beautiful floral displays at the Robinson Gardens Estate and the delicious luncheon served by the Kitchen for Exploring Foods.

The private gardens on the tour were truly spectacular this year, thanks to Maralee Beck and Jeanne Anderson who discovered these magnificent gardens for us to enjoy! We especially want to thank the owners who so generously shared their beautiful gardens with us.







Suzanne Rheinstein

Back at the Virginia Robinson
Gardens Estate, the concierge level
ticket-holders were seated at their
own table, gloriously decorated by
Florist Brad Austin. Our Grand
Marshal, world-renowned interior
designer Suzanne Rheinstein, talked
about her passion for gardens and her
admiration for the Friends of Virginia
Robinson Gardens who put on this
amazing event year after year. The
guests were then treated to a lively
and chic fashion show by the French
fashion house IRO.



Guests also enjoyed wonderful shopping at the De Colores Fiesta Boutique where thirty one vendors displayed designer handbags, clothes, jewelry, unique gifts and elegant antiques.

Seated under a floral archway, an authentically dressed "Frida Kahlo" greeted the guests inside the house. We are grateful to the very talented florists and interior designers who totally transformed the rooms. Lush, opulent floral displays complemented creative and beautiful interior designs that were truly a feast for the eyes! Thanks to all for a fabulous day! To see more photos, go to our website: www.robinsongardens.org/gardentour-2016-de-colores-photos











OUR FLORISTS & DESIGNERS

Front Pathway

Eric Solberg Gardens

www.ericsolberggardens.com 323-658-8874

Front Entrance Doorway

Yamaguchi Bonsai Nursery

1905 Sawtelle Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90025 310-473-5444 www.yamaguchinursery.com

Entrance Hall

Castle Antiques & Design

11924 Vose Street, North Hollywood, CA 91605 info@castleantiques.net 855-765-5800

Muguet Florist

421 N. Rodeo Drive, Beverly Hills, CA 90210 aria@muguetflowers.com 310-248-2611

Living Room

Le Jardin Privé

818-625-5243 www.lejardinprive.com

Dale Witt on Piano

Library & Library Patio

Suzanne Rheinstein - Hollyhock

927 N. La Cienega Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90069 310-777-0100 www.hollyhockinc.com

Morning Room

Lladró

234 N. Rodeo Drive, Beverly Hills, CA 90210 310-385-0690

Natural Objects

746 S. Los Angeles Street, #102, Los Angeles, CA 90014 310-433-5752 www.natural-objects.com

Dining Room

Christofle

9515 Brighton Way, Beverly Hills, CA 90210 310-858-8058 www.christofle.com

Kenneth Boyer

kennethboyer@gmail.com 323-481-0247

Sweet Peas Custom Floral

310-843-0255 sweetpeasbeverlyhills@gmail.com

Loggia

Everage Design

310-264-0066 www.everagedesign.com

Luna Gardens Events

1139 S. Robertson Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90035 ricardo@lunagardensevents.com 310-281-2565

Juan F. Bastos Portrait Artist

323-655-6112 www.juanbastos.com

Ivo's Office

Kazanjian Brothers Jewelry

9489 Dayton Way, #300, Beverly Hills, CA 90210 310-246-2410 www.kazanjian.com

Garden Club of Santa Barbara

Joan Selwyn

Kitchen

Heather Taylor Home

310-413-7665 www.heathertaylorhome.com

Flower Box

310-393-9878 brendasflowerbox.com

Homeboy Industries

130 Bruno Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012 323-350-1055

Kitchen Patio

Merrihew's Sunset Gardens

1526 Ocean Park Blvd., Santa Monica, CA 90405 310-452-1051

Galleria

Denis Bloch

9626 Brighton Way, Beverly Hills, CA 90210 310-270-4880 www.denisbloch.com

Galleria Bar

Bel Air Garden Club

Carole Gaba

Master Bedroom & Bath

Zale Design Studio

310-991-0321

www.zaledesignstudio.com

Grande Maison de Blanc

417 N. Beverly Drive, Beverly Hills, CA 90210 310-598-1982 www.gmblanc.com

Swinging Chandelier Events

310-924-5204 alisavidor@gmail.com

Guest Bedroom & Bath

Frette Beverly Hills

445 N. Rodeo Drive, Beverly Hills, CA 90210 310-273-8540

Beverly Hills Garden Club

Jamie Wolf

Concierge

Brad Austin Imaginative Florals

323-658-8874 www.bradaustin.com

Lily Pond

Greenwood Gardens

8000 Balcom Canyon Road, Somis, CA 93006 562-494-8944 www.greenwoodgarden.com

Pool Pavilion

The Kitchen for Exploring Foods

IRO

325 N. Beverly Drive, Beverly Hills, CA 90210 310-276-1885

Jo Malone

Bandolier

137 N. Larchmont Blvd., #221, Los Angeles, CA 90004 323-317-6283 jacki@bandolierstyle.com

Sugarfina

3915 W. 102nd Street, Los Angeles, CA 90303 855-784-2734

www.sugarfina.com

Pool Pavilion Urns Flowermaid

310-305-8992

www.flowermaid.com



OUR Vendors







Art Couture - Dominique Vialar 310-829-4651 www.artcouturedominique.com

Bella Leigh -Tracey Shindler 16055 Ventura Blvd, Ste. 924, Encino, CA 91436 310-569-7008 www.bellaleigh.com

beltini - Tani Miller Isaacs 310-918-7951 www.beltinibelts.com

Catimini - Jennifer Browne 9511 South Santa Monica Blvd Beverly Hills, CA 90210 310-276-4500 shopcatimini.com

Classy Bag Lady - Lea Karp 818-906-1448 www.classybaglady.com

Diamonds Forevs - Susie David 310-666-3244 www.diamondsforevs.com

The Dori Collection - Dori Schneider 310-625-4149 www.thedoricollection.com

Dry Divas - Colleen Bellitti 888-927-0057 www.drydivas.com

Emergency Café - Cari Butler 310-613-6206 emergencycafe.com

Flutterleigh - Lisa Summers 323-932-1500 www.flutterleigh.com

Friends of Robinson Gardens

Gift Gardens Antiques - Susan Corroll 15266 Antioch Street, Pacific Palisades, CA 90272 310-459-4114 www.giftgardenantiques.com Gifts et al - Ryan Jacobson 632 No. Doheny Drive, Los Angeles, CA 90069 424-279-9276 www.giftsetal.com

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Kiddie Antics - Cyndi Zelman 800-905-5660 kiddieantics.com

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Louise's Hats - Louise Turner 310-650-4557 louisekt@sbcglobal.net

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Mattie Luxe - Andi Hrncir 818-501-0949 mattieluxe.com

Michael Stars - Kelly Coffey 310-263-7375 www.michaelstars.com

Monica Mahoney 917-992-0070 www.monicahmahoney.com

Moonlite - Lila Tavakoli (310) 573-0013 moonlite10@verizon.net

Nancy Clavin Art - Nancy Clavin 310-617-9880 www.nancyclavinart.com

Party Skirts - Lauren Armstrong 778-989-6704 www.partyskirts.com Paws de Luxe - Danielle Schatteman 310-274-2464 www.pawsdeluxe.com

Ronelle Designs - Ronelle Benchanas 323-939-4759 ronelle7654@aol.com

Rosie G Style - Grace Rose rosiegstyle.com

Sassy Chic - Shawna Tolchinsky 818-231-2621 rtolin1234@aol.com

Single Dress - Galina Sobolev 213-239-9933 www.singledress.com

Sissiel - Sissi Legziel sissilegziel@gmail.com 646-236-4490

Ted Baker London - Kristen Perino 131 N Robertson Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90048 310-550-7855 www.tedbaker.com/us

The Treasured Accessory - Laurie Galen 818-383-5868 www.thetreasuredaccessory.com

Toni Bennett Jewelry Designs - Toni Davis Bennett 310-205-9050 tonitoni474@yahoo.com

Two Gems - Lisa Cassel 818-419-7578 www.two-gems.com



LUNCHEON ON THE GREAT LAWN: The Kitchen for Exploring Foods1434 W Colorado Blvd, Pasadena, CA 91105
626-793-7218







ROBINSON GARDENS HIGHLIGHTS

The Friends of Robinson Gardens 2016 "Hollywood Bowl" Membership Luncheon

Chaired by the magnificent Joan Selwyn with the invaluable assistance of Patti Reinstein and Kerstin Royce, the Membership Party at Virginia Robinson Gardens, with 60 members in attendance, was a marvelous event! It was a beautiful day, and strains of the zviolin and cello music of the Pacific Coast Strings greeted the guests, many of whom were wearing lovely hats. The theme was "The Hollywood Bowl," which Virginia loved and helped save during the Great Depression. Mrs. Robinson hosted a performance of the Bowl once a year for 40 years at her estate. Our delightful new members are: Joni Smith, Marcia Hobbs, Vicki Victor, Nancy London, Freya Ivener, Janice Olds, Virginia Pullman, Carol Schultz, Jennifer Canale, Michelle Kazanjian Sommers, Michelle Foster, and Pamela Burton.



Joan gave a very eloquent speech, honoring three of our amazing members: Diane Jenkins for her stunning graphic designs for invitations and tribute books, contributing significantly to the success of our events, and for taking us to the next level with the internet and social media; Greer Saunders for creating an amazing Children's Program that has become one of the main focuses at Robinson Gardens; and Jeanne Anderson for her legendary floral arrangements that grace the tables at almost all our events, and for the creation of a very successful and popular Fellows program with splendid events and trips.

Interior Designer Suzanne Rheinstein

The Friends of Robinson Gardens were honored to have internationally renowned interior designer Suzanne Rheinstein give a delightful lecture on beautiful homes she has decorated. A longtime supporter of Virginia Robinson Gardens, Suzanne has written a new book entitled **Rooms for Living: A Style for Today with Things from the Past.**

Although the homes she has designed reflect different styles, Suzanne said, "They all have a respect for the outdoors, and a love of bringing things inside from the garden. My work is botanically inspired. I really believe in rooms that you can live in." Whether traditional or more contemporary, Suzanne's exquisite interiors all radiate an elegant, refined and romantic tranquility.





Fellows Trip to New Orleans

Fellows member Janice Jerde, a member of the Tulane University School of Architecture Advisory Board, arranged an incredible tour of New Orleans and upriver plantations for the Fellows. Professor John Stubbs, Christovich Senior Professor of Practice and Director of the Masters of Preservation Studies Program at the Tulane School of Architecture, also helped with the arrangements and accompanied the group throughout the tour, providing interesting detail and insight into the architecture and history of New Orleans. Through Janice and John, the group was invited to tour and have cocktails at exquisite private homes and gardens not open to the public. An amazing experience enjoyed by all, the New Orleans trip has set a very high standard for future Fellows' adventures!

Superintendent Tim Lindsay as Rose Parade Float Judge of 2016

What an honor for Tim Lindsay to become one of three judges for the 2016 Floats of Rose Parade earlier this year! "The Tournament of Roses Parade personifies all that's good about America," Tim states. Tim will speak on his experience on Saturday, December 17, 2016. Be sure to sign up for this intriguing lecture!

THE CHILDREN'S PROGRAM AT ROBINSON GARDENS



School Tours

Los Angeles County Parks and Recreation, along with the Friends of Robinson Gardens, offers tours of the 6.2 acre Robinson Gardens which is free to public and private elementary schools. On the docent-led tour, the children learn through hands-on experience and achieve a better understanding of the 3 R's: recycling, reusing, and reclaiming their environment. These children gain greater interest in how to grow a garden of their own and motivation for eating more fruits and vegetables, while experiencing the beauty, history, and serenity of the Garden.

The Children's Program welcomed over 1700 young visitors in the past year! This number could not have been possible without the help of the County of Los Angeles – Tim Lindsay, Josh Johnston, April Walton, and Leticia Chihuahua. The following foundations donated major funding for this program, which included bus transportation:

- Robert Anderson
- Annenberg Foundation
- The Rose Hills Foundation
- Callie D. McGrath Foundation
- Beverly Hills Garden Club Foundation
- Rotary Club of Beverly Hills
- The Los Angeles Clippers Foundation
- The Harold McAlister Charitable Foundation
- The Winnick Family Foundation
- The Ralph M. Parsons Foundation
 - Ken and Carol Schultz Foundation



Our annual Science Fair brings children from Maryvale, Hillside, Hathaway-Sycamores, and other group homes to the Gardens for a memorable day of exploration. From the Kitchen Garden, where they smell, touch, and eat what we grow, to the monkey cages that are now the chicken pen, the children are constantly learning. The Mad Science Show, the entertaining magician, and the delicious lunch with a DJ playing the children's favorite songs add to the fun of the day. For most of our guests, this is a dream come true, and they depart with a bag filled with gifts and garden resources. In the true spirit of Virginia Robinson, the children are treated to a memorable, potentially lifechanging experience, thanks to the dedication and vision of Greer Saunders and Kerstin Royce.



THE FRIENDS OF ROBINSON GARDENS 2016 PATRON GALA



Reminiscent of Virginia Robinson's legendary parties, "La Dolce Vita" was the Italian-themed Grand Soiree for the VRG Patron Gala event this year. It was a beautiful, elegant celebration, thanks to our very talented and amazing co-chairs Adrienne Horwitch, Cindy Fields, and Ricki Ring. There was a pledge drive for the restoration of Virginia's gem of a card room on the second floor of the Pool Pavilion, along with exciting silent and live auction items, generously bid on by the Gala guests.

The highlight of the evening was the presentation of the extraordinary Joni Smith with the "Spirit of Beverly Hills Award" in recognition of her outstanding cultural and philanthropic leadership. Past President and Gala co-chair Adrienne Horwitch stated that Joni's leadership roles on the boards of the Music Center, Blue Ribbon, Costume Council of LACMA, Library Foundation, and Diadames, to mention a few, have "made a lasting difference to Los Angeles," and that she "is a person to admire and who inspires."

As the night progressed, twinkling lights strung above the Great Lawn illuminated the garden like a paradise. Florist Ricardo Luna of Luna Gardens Events designed the stunningly decorated tables. Guests feasted on a delicious dinner catered by the Kitchen for Exploring Foods, with wonderful wines donated by Nino O'Brien and Jennifer Varsak of Accasbel Wines. The beautiful tribute book, designed by Friends member Diane Jenkins, was full of heart-warming, admiring, and deserving accolades for Joni Smith, who like Virginia Robinson in her day, has brought so much culture and philanthropy to Los Angeles.





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2016-17 EDUCATION & EVENTS You don't want to miss!

DECEMBER

3rd - Gardening Lecture: Poinsettias

9th - Cookie Exchange

10th - Holiday Open House

17th - Tim Lindsay Lecture: Being a Rose Parade Judge





JANUARY

21st - Jeff Hyland Lecture: The Estates of Beverly Hills (Fellows event)

25th - Tim Lindsay Gardening Series: How to Select Bare Root Fruit Trees & Roses

27th - David Leaser Lecture: Big Flowers

FEBRUARY

10th - Linda Civitella Lecture: History of Food and People

22nd - Tim Lindsay Gardening Series: Planning Spring Color for Your Garden





MARCH

10th - Victoria Kastner Lecture: Hollywood and Fred Astaire

17th - Children's Science Fair

29th - Tim Lindsay Gardening Series: Spring Planting

APRIL

26th - Tim Lindsay Gardening Series: Phenomenal Flowers





MAY

20th - Legendary Beverly Hills GARDEN TOUR

The "Not Your Average Garden Tour" experience will feature exquisite gardens of Beverly Hills with a rendezvous back at the Robinson estate for strolls within the Robinson home, decorated by top designers and florists. Plus, a festive luncheon and fashion show on the Great Lawn! This delightful day also includes an expansive boutique for an incredible shopping experience.

JUNE

5th through 8th - Fellows Home and Garden Tour in Newport, Rhode Island

24th - Opera on the Great Lawn

28th - Tim Lindsay Gardening Series: Summer Perennials





SEPTEMBER

9th - PATRON GALA

The annual black tie Patron Gala is one of the most magical nights under the stars in Beverly Hills as the Friends of Robinson Gardens pay tribute to a recipient of the "Spirit of Beverly Hills Award." It is a night of celebration and gratitude not only to the honoree of the evening, but also to all who have given so much time and support to the very special Virginia Robinson Gardens estate.

