

# *Virginia Robinson Gardens*

*Winter Newsletter 2014*

President – Kerstin Royce

Editor – Nancy Miller

1008 Elden Way, Beverly Hills, California 90210

310.550.2068

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





# Message from the President

KERSTIN ROYCE — PRESIDENT 2013-2014



All who volunteer at Robinson Gardens know what a visit to the Gardens means to us personally. What we do not know, is how many healthful benefits there are to the mind and the body as a result of having regular access to green spaces. This is especially significant for the development of children. Therefore, I am delighted to announce that Friends of Robinson Gardens has expanded the Children's Outreach program under the leadership of **Greer Saunders**. For the first time, four foundations have partnered with us to bring children from Title One Schools to the Gardens for tours and hands-on science experiences. We look forward to sharing more about this program as it develops.

During the past six months, the Friends of Robinson Gardens have offered a series of lectures, workshops and community events. **Marian Power**, Chairman of Education, selected a variety of speakers. **Jeanne Anderson**, Chairman of the Fellows, coordinated field trips and special presentations. In addition, **Julia Klein** and **Tania Norris**, Chairmen of Botanical Illustration, scheduled workshops with artists Anne Marie Evans, Jenny Phillips, Akiko Enokido and Christina Baltayan.

**Susan Rosenthal** gave all of us a day to remember with a delightful Membership Luncheon. We are proud to welcome twenty-two new members into our circle of Friends. I would also like to applaud **Jill Davis** for her outstanding work as our Society Membership chair. Thank you all so much.

Finally, it is my great pleasure to commend Chairmen **Jacqueline Tesoriero**, **Cathy Kurstin**, **Sunday Taylor** and the entire benefit committee for the spectacular Midnight in Paris Gala. "*Merci beaucoup*" to each and everyone for your diligent preparations for this wonderful and successful event. Virginia's spirit was evident in every detail.

Now on to the 2014 Benefit Season... This year's Garden Tour, appropriately named, "Pathways to Paradise," chaired by **Julia Klein** and **Adrienne Horwitch**, will take place on May 17th. **SAVE THE DATE!** We welcome you all to another unequalled spring event at Robinson Gardens.

My deepest gratitude to our Superintendent **Tim Lindsay**, Events Coordinator **Bianca Costin**, all volunteers, staff, docents, and donors for your continued support, enthusiasm, inspiration and above all friendship. Together we are able to preserve, protect and restore the remarkable landmark that is Virginia Robinson Gardens.

Sincerely,

*Kerstin Royce*

---

## NEWSLETTER STAFF

**Editor** – Nancy Miller • **Reporters** – Jeanne Anderson, Angela Cohen, Julia Klein, Linda Meadows, Marian Power, Susan Rosenthal, Kerstin Royce, Jackie Tesoriero

**Photography** – Jeanne Anderson, Julia Klein, Tim Lindsay, Linda Meadows, Marian Power, Susan Rosenthal, Kerstin Royce

**Professional Gala Photographs** – Anne Cronin Photography • **Professional Design** – Jerry Bernard @ DSJ Printing, Inc. – [www.dsjsprinting.com](http://www.dsjsprinting.com)

**Contributors** – Bianca Costin, Leslie Tillmann

# MIDNIGHT IN PARIS

“A walk about Paris will provide lessons in history, beauty and in the point of life.”

Thomas Jefferson 1743-1826

Recalling Virginia Robinson's legacy for famous parties, this year's Patron Gala “Midnight in Paris” was a Grand Soirée held September 21st on the Great Lawn of the Estate. The evening stars, a 20-foot replica of the Tour D' Eiffel and Parisian street lanterns illuminated the garden. Friends of Robinson Gardens and their guests, all elegantly dressed, many in shimmering flapper gowns were greeted by formal waiters with sparkling crystal champagne flutes filled with French Champagne generously provided by **Cartier**, corporate sponsor of the event. In the Pool Pavilion, Hemingway's Bar buzzed with nostalgic “spirits” and the music of Edith Piaf, performed by an authentic French chanteuse.

Oh, là, là Cancan dancers and a big band orchestra set the stage for the fabulous dinner and French wines served throughout the evening. Magenta and pink toned floral bouquets by **Hollyflora** brought a magical fragrance to each table.

The highlight of the evening was the presentation of the **Spirit of Beverly Hills Award**, designed by Marcella Ruble, to the 2013 honoree **Jeff Hyland**.

Jeffrey Hyland, founder of Christie's International Real Estate, Inc. has served as President of the Beverly Hills Board of Realtors, President of the Los Angeles County Boards of Real Estate, and State Director for the California Association of Realtors. Jeffrey Hyland is also a noted architectural historian. His book, “*The Legendary Estates of Beverly Hills*,” represents the detailed stories of a wide range of significant estate properties from the 20 and 21st centuries in not only Beverly Hills, but also the surrounding equally prestigious neighborhoods of Bel-Air and Holmby Hills. Included are the “*fascinating lives of the residents of these prized properties, from their passionate involvement in the design of their estates to their larger-than-life activities and entertainments, their intrigues, and sometimes their tragedies.*”

Throughout the evening, silent and live auctions, generously sponsored and supported by the community raised funds for future restoration projects. Thank you to Gala Chairmen **Cathy Kurstin, Sunday Taylor** and **Jacqueline Tesoriero**.

All proceeds from the Benefit Gala go to preserving, promoting and enhancing Virginia Robinson Gardens.



2013 Spirit of Beverly Hills Award Honoree, Jeffrey Hyland



Artist Marcella Ruble presents Jeffrey Hyland with the “Spirit of Beverly Hills” award.



Gala Chairmen Sunday Taylor, Cathy Kurstin and Jacqueline Tesoriero with Jeffrey Hyland.













We want to express our sincerest gratitude to those who contributed to the auctions and the 2013 gala benefit fund.

**Cartier Joailliers**

**Jerome Kerr-Jarrett, Beverly Hills Boutique Director**

**Worthy McCartney Director of Sales**

All Star Travel Agency  
Jeanne & Robert Anderson  
Aria Resort, Las Vegas  
The Beverly Hills Hotel  
B. the Product  
Blu Print  
BOCA & BOCA Man  
Café Vida  
Craig's Restaurant  
Lynn Doran & Rodney Kemerer  
Dry Bar  
Elie Saab Perfume  
Equinox  
Krista Everage  
Kate Somerville  
Fabi  
Kerstin Florian Skincare  
Four Seasons Westlake  
Giorgio Armani  
The Grill on the Alley  
Haven & Co.  
Hotel Bel-Air

House of Cashmere  
Margy & Jeff Hudson  
Il Pastaio  
Innovative Dining Group  
Bob Jamison  
Kazanjian Jewelers  
Peggy Dark & the Kitchen  
for Exploring Food  
Cathy & Ron Kurstin  
Dr. Harold Lancer  
La Prairie Spa & Boutique  
Ralph Lauren  
Ellen Lipson  
Louis Vuitton  
Marc Michel Eyewear  
Mila Schon  
William McDonald Miller III  
Michelle International  
Elizabeth Mullen  
Nobu  
Oscar de la Renta Jewelry  
Ojai Valley Inn, Altour Travel

Ann Christie Petersen  
Planet Salon  
Porta Via  
Scandia Down  
Tim Street-Porter  
Rose Hills Foundation  
Susan Rosenthal  
Kerstin Royce  
Clarissa & Wesley Ru  
Saks Fifth Avenue  
Santa Barbara Polo & Racquet Club  
Sama Eyewear  
Shann Christen Studio  
Storck USA LP  
Merci Chocolates  
Tavern Restaurant  
Sunday & Scott Taylor  
Jacqueline & Joe Tesoriero  
Rolf Tillmann  
Via Alloro  
Villa Blanca  
Jamie Wolf





# 2013 Membership Luncheon

*"Hats-off to our New Friends"*

October 4, 2013 – New Friends gathered with the general membership on the veranda of the Robinson Estate to welcome in the new membership season.

To begin the morning, Superintendent **Tim Lindsay** guided the new members on a tour of the gardens. Then committee chairmen presented volunteer opportunities open to members of the Friends. President **Kerstin Royce** and Membership Chairman **Susan Rosenthal** welcomed everyone to a festive luncheon of hors d'oeuvres followed by salmon wellington, and an assortment of salads, English truffles and shortbread basil cookies for dessert.

In keeping with the theme of the luncheon "A High Hatted Luncheon Tea," new members were given a rose and all members took home a teapot cookie cutter that was used at each table as a napkin ring.



Left to right: Vice President Julia Klein with new members Kathy Choi and Karen Locke



## INTRODUCING NEW MEMBERS

Nicole Antoine  
Mary Valentine Buckingham  
Cynthia Carlson  
Connie Ching  
Kathy Choi  
Helene Cooper  
Catherine Fellowes

Susan Genter  
Betty Rodriguez Goldstein  
Susan Gross  
Roberta Haft  
Susan Harris  
Janice Jerde  
Rodney Kemerer

Karen Locke  
Lulah (Poppy) Paulos  
CC Pulitzer-Lemann  
Patricia Reinstein  
Pamela Rowe  
Clare Wagner  
Toni Yamin

*Founded in 1982 by Joan Selwyn, the Friends mission is to preserve and promote the historic estate of Harry and Virginia Robinson for the education and enjoyment of the general public. Friends' members are active volunteers who organize educational lectures, tours, botanical illustration workshops, special events, and the annual Garden Tour Benefit and Patron Gala to raise funds for the maintenance and enrichment of the property.*

# Past Education Lectures and Tours

## “Historical Winfield House and My Time There” By Maria Hummer Tuttle

October 9, 2013

“Beautiful, talented, intelligent and gracious,” is how Joan Selwyn, founding member of the Friends of Robinson Gardens, described Maria Hummer Tuttle. As the wife of Robert Tuttle, the United States Ambassador to United Kingdom during the George W. Bush administration, she regaled us with tales of her times at Winfield House, the United States Ambassador’s residence in London, which she said “was my greatest and best tool for public diplomacy.”



Originally built by Barbara Hutton in 1936, Winfield House is a Georgian style mansion surrounded by extensive gardens. After World War II, Hutton wrote directly to President Harry Truman to present her house as a gift to the American government. Walter Annenberg, one of our ambassadors, greatly contributed to the renovation of Winfield House and left a \$5 million endowment for subsequent restorations. He hired decorator Billy Haines, who embellished one of the rooms with a beautiful green 18th century Chinese wallpaper, which was formerly at Townley Hall in Ireland. Evangeline Bruce, the wife of the ambassador in the 1960’s, brought fuschia trees into the house because she said “The English look at your plants the way the French look at your shoes.”

Maria further refreshed and renovated the house, adding to its beauty and elegance. From their private collection, the Tuttle displayed modern American masters such as De Kooning to contrast with the classical paintings of George Washington and Thomas Jefferson in the main rooms. They also borrowed paintings from the Art in Embassies Program, among them a popular Edward Hopper painting called the “Wine Shop,” and a number of Mark Rothkos. For entertaining, Maria said she was blessed with an extraordinary staff, who assisted her in presenting everything from small dinner parties, to Thanksgiving banquets, to a Fourth of July party for 2,000 guests on their seven-acre lawn.

After the lecture, we were treated to a delicious lunch, and had an opportunity to peruse “Winfield House,” a book written by Maria Hummer Tuttle and Marcus Binney. As it is no longer in print, Maria generously donated two copies to the Virginia Robinson Garden Library. — L. Meadows

## The Artistry of Flowers By Peter Otero – Silver Birches

November 14, 2013



Born in Columbia and raised in America, Peter Otero of the floral design and event-planning firm Silver Birches is internationally known for his creative designs. Named “Duke of Décor” by Luxury Brides Magazine, Peter travels all over the world for his events. Inheriting his love of flowers from his mother, he said, “Design has always been my passion.” From the age of 13, he worked at florist shops. He subsequently earned a degree in interior design, but was drawn back to working with flowers. In Los Angeles, he took his portfolio, described as “exotic and edgy,” to four of the top floral designers, and was offered a job at all of them. He chose Silver Birches; it is now his company.

“I’m known for pushing the envelope,” he explained as he proceeded to show us how to create a Thanksgiving centerpiece. In the hollow log of a birch tree, he built a “modern cornucopia,” made by filling both ends and the crevices of the log with reddish-brown amaranth, soft yellow pom-pom chrysanthemums and yellow, red and orange ornamental chili peppers, along with bursts of bright green moss, and orange marigolds. The end result was a cascade of autumn colors from the log, or as Peter put it, “floral sap.” Another



benefit was that most of the flowers kept their color when dried, extending the life of the arrangement for weeks to come.



With his optimistic spirit, he ended the lecture by stating that “Travel is the best money spent; I find new inspiration in different cultures that allow me to constantly create.” In keeping with the Thanksgiving theme, we also enjoyed a delicious brunch on beautiful tables, each one decorated differently by Marian Power and Jeanne Anderson — L. Meadows



# Past Education Lectures and Tours

## Field Trip to Los Angeles Arboretum

November 18, 2013



Adrienne Horwitch  
and Ann Petersen

On a lovely Southern California autumn day, Superintendent Tim Lindsay led a fall gardening and walking tour of the **Los Angeles County Arboretum and Botanical Garden**. The highlights of the magnificent 127-acre Arboretum located in Arcadia include the Grace Kallam Perennial Garden, the Queen Anne Cottage and the Meyberg Waterfall.

The Tropical Greenhouse was a feast for all senses with exotic orchids and Spanish moss, as well as vanilla, chocolate and cinnamon plants. The tour included several sculptures in the Water Conservation Garden, the Madagascar Spicy Forest, Herbs of the World and the Turtle Pond. The Arboretum is laid out geographically, with diverse flora from South America, the Mediterranean, South Africa, Australia and Siastic-North America. Everyone enjoyed taking photos and discovering unique plants and wildlife. — A. Cohen



Jackie Tesoriero, Fred and Patti Reinstein  
and Cathy Kurstin

## Hearst Ranch: Family, Land and Legacy By Victoria Kastner

January 14, 2014



Victoria Kastner, author of the newly published book **Hearst Ranch: Family, Land and Legacy**, has been the historian for Hearst Castle for 34 years. Victoria used three different photographers for her book; one for landscape, one for architecture and one for cowboy portraits. Ms. Kastner gave an engaging lecture on the Hearst ranch that surrounds the Castle and the various buildings on the property designed by Julia Morgan, that are still in use today, such as a dairy barn, a hacienda, and picturesque Mission Revival homes built for the employees. In particular, she showed us the Victorian house with elegant Victorian furnishings that George Hearst, the father of William Randolph Hearst, built for his wife Phoebe. Remarkably gifted, Julia Morgan was the only woman to study architecture at the Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris. Her father reportedly said, *"If it is too hard for you, you don't have to stay, but if you can, show them what an American girl can do!"*



In addition to being a passionate collector of European art and antiques, Hearst loved horses and cowboy life, and bought many Western-themed sculptures and paintings by Frederic Remington. The 82,000 acre estate is still a working cattle ranch, personifying an untouched slice of life from the 19th century. Next year will begin a celebration of the 150 year history of the ranch, which along with Hearst Castle was given to the public as a museum and state park. *"A gift to the future, this piece of the past will remain forever, and we are all the beneficiaries of it because of one family,"* Victoria explained. Hearst always wanted to have wine vineyards, and in 2010, the vineyards were finally planted.

At the luncheon after the lecture, the award-winning Hearst Chardonnay wine was served on beautiful tables, decorated by Jeanne Anderson. Along with cacti as centerpieces, the tables were covered with charming, vintage cowboy-themed tablecloths and bandanas. Those who attended had the opportunity to purchase a signed copy. — L. Meadows

## Cooking with Chef Lauren Cartmel

January 21, 2014



*Ma Maison* Chef and owner, Lauren Cartmel, famous for using local produce and neighboring artisans and farmers, prepared a special luncheon for eight lucky Friends. She has served as the pastry chef at Gordon Ramsay in London and senior sous-chef at the Beverly Hills Hotel. Lunch was served in the loggia of the Virginia Robinson Garden. What a treat! We started with Ginger-Chile Shrimp in lettuce cups followed by Blood Orange and Spinach Salad with candied cashews. Our main course was a lovely Branzino with steamed Bok Choy in a soy vinaigrette. And the *piece-de-resistance* was a Coconut Creme Brûlée. Superb food, helpful tips, an abundance of laughter and splendid camaraderie made this a day to remember. Merci, merci beaucoup Lauren.



# Fellows Events

## The Huntington Library, Art Collections and Botanic Gardens Lecture by Author, Catherine Allgor

November 8, 2013



### **Finding Dolley: In Search of the Woman Behind the Dessert** by Dr. Catherine Allgor.

Dr. Allgor presented a lively discussion of the impact of the life of one of the most famous First Ladies in American History: Dolley Madison. How one person, through her connection to people, could become larger than life. Dr. Allgor addressed the concept of one person changing history. Dolley was famous for redecorating the White House and organizing weekly parties in the Drawing Room. She was the Queen – elegant, warm, and charming. Remembered for her personality, her ‘Wednesday nights’ were the unofficial, “*behind the scenes*,” epicenter of the political forums of the day. Dolley held the Capital together and made the White House the symbol of representative government. She contributed to achieving the President’s goal of unifying all political

parties. Her personality, presence and political reasoning made her not only an appealing figure, but also a significant historical figure.

Members attending the lecture also enjoyed lunch at the Huntington Café, viewed the gardens and current art exhibits.



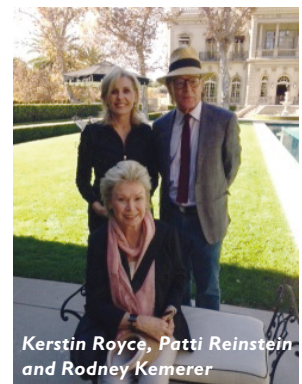
## Visit to the Resnick Sunset House

January 8, 2014



On a perfect sunny morning, The Fellows of VRG visited the spectacular Sunset Boulevard estate of the innovative and philanthropic couple, Lynda and Stuart Resnick. Sunset House, as it is aptly named, is surrounded by elegant gardens created by landscape architect Rios Clementi Hale Studios and A.C. Martin. This classic French Beaux Arts mansion provided a breath taking view of the gardens after the recent re-positioning of the front of the house in line with the new and elegant landscape. A grove of mature fruit trees line the property, luxurious lawns surround the pool, and a modernist pavilion clad in white travertine provides private family space. The attention to detail was noted and greatly admired by the group of Fellows who toured the gardens led by the gracious Bernard Jazzar.

— A. Horwitch



## Marc Appleton's Reflections on “Florestal”

January 25, 2014



Marc Appleton presented an illustrated lecture on the development of Hope Ranch and his family home “Florestal” designed by architect George Washington Smith and completed in 1927 for his grandparents Peter Cooper Bryce and his wife, Angelica. The couple honeymooned in Santa Barbara and determined to someday make it their home. In 1923, Bryce bought 52 acres in Hope Ranch. Smith proposed a home in the Spanish Colonial Revival style, in which he had already made a national name for himself.

The home would feature three enclosed courtyards. Angelica Bryce traveled to Spain to pick up design

ideas and furnishings for the house. Cases of materials were shipped to Santa Barbara. The fountain in the first courtyard is based on one of her sketches. Other features of the house included a magnificent library. Here Peter Bryce housed his collection of some 3,000 volumes.

Both the Bryces were avid horticulturalists, which inspired the name of the estate. Angelica was especially known for her experimentation with roses. Peter was a recognized expert on orchids, developing types that had fragrances. The two were also animal lovers; the estate was home to dogs, cats, peacocks, a tortoise, and even a cow. Peter Bryce died in 1964. Mrs. Bryce lived on in the family home until her death at age 90 in 1980. Florestal was sold the following year and has since gone through the hands of a number of owners.





# Upcoming Events

## Tour of the Getty Gardens

February 12, 2014



Participants will tour The Central Garden, created by artist Robert Irwin which lies at the heart of the Getty Center. The 134,000-square-foot design features a natural ravine and tree-lined walkway that leads the visitor through an extraordinary experience of sights, sounds, and scents. The walkway traverses a stream that winds through a variety of plants and gradually descends to a plaza where bougainvillea arbors provide scale and a sense of intimacy. Continuing through the plaza, the stream cascades over a stone waterfall or “chadar,” into a pool with a floating maze of azaleas. Specialty gardens encircle the pool. All of the foliage and materials of the garden have been selected to accentuate the interplay of light, color, and reflection. Since the Center opened in 1997, the Central Garden has evolved as its plants have grown and been trimmed. New

plants are constantly being added to the palette. Irwin’s statement “Always changing, never twice the same” is carved into the plaza floor, reminding visitors of the ever-changing nature of this living work of art.

## Fashion and the Oscars

February 19, 2014

**Clarissa Esguerra, Assistant Curator of Costume and Textiles at LACMA**



Ms Esguerra will speak on the relationship between film and high fashion designers and the allure that these style-makers generated for actors and actresses both on and off the screen. Film costume designs both

nominated and award winning, as well as couture gowns, meriting not only the red carpet, but also the permanent collection of the department of Costume and Textiles at the Los Angeles Country Museum of Art, will be included in the presentation. A luncheon in the Pool Pavilion will follow the lecture.



## Bumps, Blocks & Buttresses

February 26, 2014

**By Gary Jones**



Plants shaped into architectural forms can be used to create rhythm, movement and volume in gardens. In this slide lecture, examples of outdoor spaces in various styles are shown that include shaped shrubs used in sophisticated and subtle ways.

Gary Jones is vice president of marketing at Armstrong Garden Centers. Gary lectures for the Horticulture Department at UCLA. He has served as a member of the Board of Trustees for the Arboretum of Los Angeles and is a member of the Board of Advisors for the Southern California Chapter of the Mediterranean Society.

The class will be held at the Pool Pavilion from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Reservation are required. Please call the Gardens at 310.550.2068 or email [info@robinsongardens.org](mailto:info@robinsongardens.org)





# Educational Lectures and Tours

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Children's Mad Science Show

March 7, 2014



Children from the group homes will visit Robinson Gardens for a tour, a Mad Science Show and other fun activities related to the Gardens. Barbeque masters Pie & Burger of Pasadena will serve their famous burgers, fries and a smorgasbord of PIES! This event is specifically underwritten by the Friends and supporting members of the community.

### The Life of Charles Fletcher Lummis

March 13, 2014

By Mark Thompson, Historian



In 1884, Charles Lummis set out on a trek from Cincinnati to Los Angeles to take a job as a reporter for the Los Angeles Times. He began to shed the prejudices born of his upbringing as a New England Yankee along the way, and developed a deep and abiding affection for the natural beauty and cultural diversity of the Southwest, where he remained until his death in 1928.

Charles Fletcher Lummis first gained a national following with widely reprinted, weekly letters that he wrote on his "tramp across the continent." He went on to become one of the most flamboyant and influential personalities of his day as a book author, magazine editor, preserver of Spanish missions, advisor to President Theodore Roosevelt and a crusader for civil rights for minority groups. Lummis was especially passionate about the mistreatment of American Indians, with whom he lived for several years. He was one of the first white Americans to assail unjust policies towards the original settlers of the region he loved, and his decades of relentless advocacy on that issue ultimately turned the tide.

**American Character**, by Mark Thompson, tells Lummis's story. Western Writers of America gave the book a **Spur Award** in 2002 for best biography of the year. Publisher's Weekly called it "*a compulsively engaging and spirited biography of a man as colorful as he was influential.*"

### Botanical Illustrations Workshop

March 24 – April 4, 2014

Instructor: Anne Marie Evans



Ann Marie Evans helps a student consider the plant structure.

For artists at all levels of interest and development, prominent botanical illustration instructor, Anne Marie Evans will conduct two one-week sessions using her unique six-step method for producing botanically correct plant "portraits." Many participants have taken the class for several years, each time benefiting from the technique and guidance of Ms. Evans, as well as the support of their classmates. For more information please contact Julia Klein, Botanical Illustration Chairman at [jklein1954@gmail.com](mailto:jklein1954@gmail.com)



Ann Marie conducts a group discussion.

### 16th Century English County Houses & Gardens

April 9, 2014

By Superintendent Tim Lindsay



This past summer, Tim Lindsay had the privilege of attending the Attingham Summer School Program in Southern England. Please turn to "The Message from the County" on page 15 for more information on this lecture. Seating is limited – make reservations today by calling 310.550.2068 or by going to [www.robinsongardens.org](http://www.robinsongardens.org). A luncheon will follow the presentation.





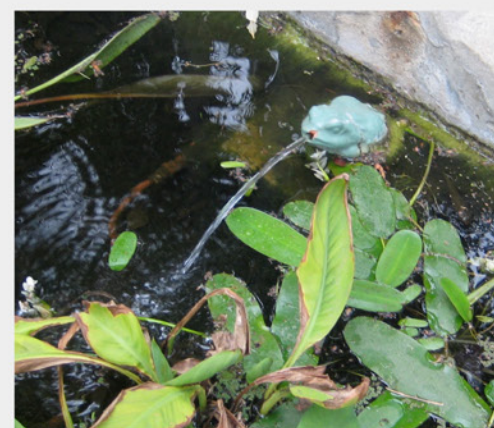
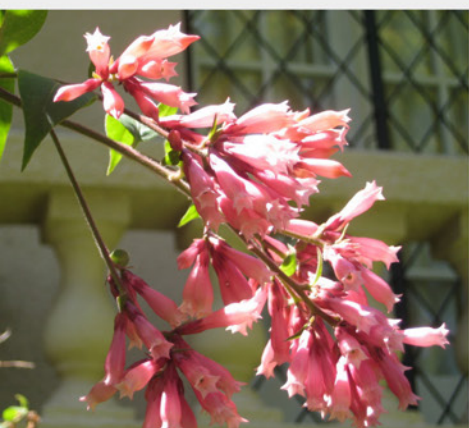
## Everybody's wild about Harry

As if in a children's story, a black and white cat magically appeared at Robinson Gardens. He first made friends with the garden staff, and then began following the docents when they conducted tours of the gardens. Soon the cat was at the back door of the kitchen meowing for something to eat. In a few short weeks, "Harry" became an integral part of the family at Robinson Gardens - sleeping in the laundry room, sunning himself on the kitchen patio, stealthily watching the fish in the pond on the Great Lawn.



He now makes himself at home whenever and wherever allowed. Even though he is excluded from art classes, business meetings and educational lectures, he waits patiently outside the window looking in. This enchanting cat is just another demonstration of how a garden responds to the world around it. Always open to the serendipitous marvels of nature, Robinson Gardens happily welcomes creatures great and small.

We hope you will plan a visit to the gardens to see ongoing restoration projects and hopefully, catch a glimpse of our friend Harry.





## ***To our Esteemed and Wonderful Donors –***

**We are very grateful for your generous contributions to Friends of Robinson Gardens. Your philanthropy enables us to continue our preservation and conservation programs at Virginia Robinson Gardens as well as our educational events and tours for adults and children. It allows us to fulfill Virginia Robinson's desire that her estate be enjoyed by the public in perpetuity. Thank you for your benevolence.**

# *Donor Recognition*

*(Contributions received Jan. 1, 2013 – Dec. 31, 2013)*

### ***\$10,000-\$49,999***

**Dorothy and Philip Kamins**

**Lori and Jeff Hyland**

**Ann Petersen and Leslie Pam  
Cartier**

**Jeanne and Robert Anderson**

**Julia and Andrew Klein**

**Kerstin and George Royce**

**Carolyn and Martin Bloom**

**Annenberg Foundation**

**The Rose Hills Foundation**

**Jamie Rosenthal Wolf and David Wolf**

### ***\$5,000-\$9,999***

Wendy and Jay Wintrob

Roberta and Jerry Furrey

Tania Norris

Cathy and Ron Kurstin

Laura and Harvey Alpert

Jacqueline and Arthur Burdorf

Connie and Walter Ching

Susan and Marc Gamsin

Margaret and Jeffrey Hudson

Susan Genter

Lindsay Doran and Rodney Kemerer

Barbara and Joel Marcus

Eris & Larry Field Family Foundation

Juliette Telander

### ***\$1,500-\$4,999***

Jacqueline and Joseph Tesoriero

Ellen and Mark Lipson

Rhona and Ytzhak Gewelber

Michael McCarthy

Adrienne and Elliott Horwitch

Sunday and Scott Taylor

Sherry Brooks and Rick Rand

Suz and Peter Landay

Audrey and Edgar Jessup

Cristina and Sarkis Baltayan

Roslyn and Allan Swartz

Ellisa and Robert Bregman

Suzanne and Richard Kayne

Worthy McCartney

Maralee Beck and Andrew Safir

David Greenwalt

Brigitte Poublon

Julie Pardee

Emily Boyle and Jonathan Biddle

Lucia and Gary Kamins

Ellen and Harry Levitt

Angela Movassaghi

Kristen and Robert Joyce

The Winnick Family Foundation

March and Richard Wiseley

Regina and Bruce Drucker

Barbara and David Jaynes

Robin Blake and Stephen Stewart

Brenda and Robert Cooke

Marian and Tyson Power

Krista and John Everage

Nancy and William Miller

Marcella Ruble

Sydney and Scott Tanner

Cynthia and Eddie Fields

Debbie and Gil Schwartzberg

Cynthia and Charles Hirschhorn

Clarisa and Wesley Ru

Patricia and Fred Reinstein

Leslie and Rolf Tillmann

Susan and Donald Walerstein

Linda and James Lippman

Joan and Paul Selwyn

Susan and Thomas Rosenthal

Donna and Martin Wolff

Anita and Anthony Garnier

Joan and John Keesey

Cindy and Jack Jones

Reva Kamins

Shiva and Randy Moshtael

Leslie and Jack Kavanaugh

Avery and Andrew Barth

Kathy and Anthony Choi

Susan and Kenneth Cohen

CC and Monte Lemann II.

Beth Rudin Dewoody

Reba and Dave Williams



# Message from the County

TIM LINDSAY – SUPERINTENDENT OF ROBINSON GARDENS

## A SUMMER REMEMBERED

By Timothy L. Lindsay



This past summer, I had the privilege of attending the Attingham Summer School Program in Southern England. Founded in 1952, the Attingham Summer School presents academic programs to examine the architectural and social history of the historic house in Britain including its gardens and landscape setting. Participants

study the contents of these buildings – their paintings, sculpture, furniture, ceramics, silver, textiles and other applied arts – as well as the planning, decorative treatment and use of the interiors. Throughout the program, there is ongoing discussion and debate regarding the challenges inherent in the conservation and presentation of the country house and its contents.



I was one of fifty museum professionals from all over the world, who spent three weeks visiting thirty-three classic 16th century country homes. Each day, the owners graciously presented the history of the house and shared engaging stories of their colorful ancestors. In some instances, the owners held titles, such as the Duke and Duchess of Devonshire at Chatsworth House. Several times, while standing in the portrait gallery, the owners would identify each successive relative as having enhanced or jeopardized the family fortune. A few unfortunate relatives literally lost their heads, when complex political deals went bad. It was fascinating to find that many of these historic sites have been owned by the same family for generations - one home, in particular, for over 400 years. Talk about a sense of place!

In the course of our study, we also heard about the socio-political history and use of each of the rooms in the house.



As we went from one room to another, from attic to basement, to underground tunnels, and on to the out-buildings, where the kitchen, laundry and other household services once were located, we gained an appreciation for the complex structure of aristocratic life in the English countryside. The wealthiest families even built lavish State Bedrooms, decorated with exquisite silk tapestries and textiles in hopes that the King and Queen would come for a visit. Such a visit would require accommodations for the royal army and many servants, nearly a thousand people for merely a weekend. If the royal entourage stayed too long, it could bankrupt the family. If they stayed just long enough, it often resulted in a political favor and an appointment to the Royal Court.



A significant component of the summer program was the exchange of knowledge between the members of this talented group of professionals. Everyone had a specialty; clocks, furniture, silver, textiles, wallpaper, portraits and porcelain, all were areas of expertise represented by members of this group. My contribution was historic landscapes. The homeowners also learned a great deal from the collective knowledge of these professionals. In fact, the homeowners had as many questions for us, as we had for them.

For those who would like to know more about the 16th century English Country Home, I will share my experience at the Attingham Summer Program on **April 9, 2014 in the Pool Pavilion at Virginia Robinson Gardens**. The lecture will include illustrated highlights of each of the homes, their many artifacts, and their magnificent gardens, as well as many fantastic stories.

Seating is limited, so please make reservations today for **April 9, 2014: Lecture at 10:00 a.m.** – luncheon to follow. Call 310.550.2068 or go to [www.robinsongardens.org](http://www.robinsongardens.org)





FRIENDS OF ROBINSON GARDENS

1008 Elden Way  
Beverly Hills, CA 90210

**DATED MATERIAL**  
**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

PRSRT STD  
U.S. POSTAGE

**PAID**

LOS ANGELES, CA  
PERMIT NO. 1494

*"...into the garden"*

# *Pathways to Paradise*

Annual Garden Tour

Saturday  
May 17, 2014  
10 am to 4 pm

*Grand Marshal  
Hutton Wilkinson*

*Internationally Acclaimed  
Designer and Jeweler*



Tim Street-Porter

*Room & Floral Displays  
throughout the Estate*

*Luncheon  
Fashion Show  
Boutique*

*Self-Guided  
Tour of  
Private Gardens*

See [www.RobinsonGardens.org](http://www.RobinsonGardens.org)  
for attendance information & prices