



## The Case of the Missing Mural

By STEVEN TIMBROOK

WHAT I CALL THE *Case of the Missing Mural* really began early in 2003 when, with encouragement and a pledge of financial backing from Board Secretary Arthur Gaudi, Trustee Barbara Siemon began planning a project to bring Madame Walska's geranium terrace back to its former glory. Arthur, as Madame's attorney, remembers how dramatic the terrace had been, with tile murals on the walls and the three large tile-covered planter boxes in much better condition than they now display. He also envisioned the terrace fountain actually operating, adding a pleasant splashing to the ambiance of this charming space at the head of the main lawn.

When love and enthusiasm for Lotusland's past combine with zeal for solving a mystery, wonderful things can result. Barbara soon became Lotusland's own Sherlock Holmes, researching Lotusland's archives for early photographs of the geranium terrace. She wanted to find views showing its pictorial tile wall decorations, which had been put into storage in 1986 when the Foundation began addressing long-deferred maintenance of the main house. Barbara soon came across a scrapbook in which Madame Walska had pasted magazine photographs of decorative tile uses from homes and public spaces in the United States and Europe. Even more exciting were folders of correspondence about purchasing tile from European importers and the actual bills, shipping invoices and even photographs of tile that

*Continued on page 2*



LOTUSLAND ARCHIVES

*Tile, tile and more tile defined the geranium terrace in this photo from the late 1950s. The European mural on the left wall, made up of more than two dozen ceramic tiles, disappeared after it was dismantled as part of major maintenance work on the main house following Madame Walska's death.*

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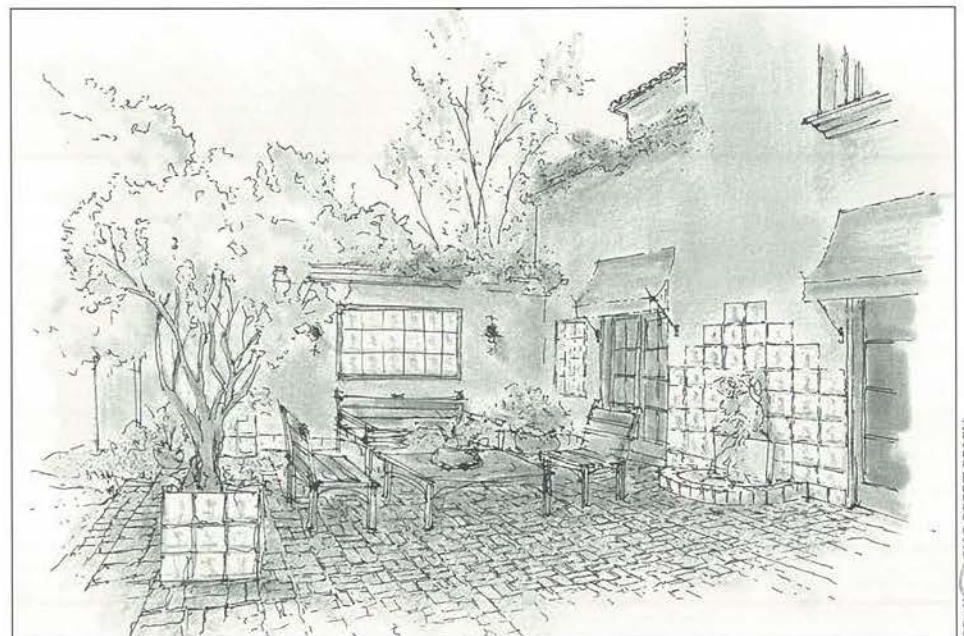
STEVE TIMBROOK

*A detail from the long-missing mural, now being restored in preparation for its reinstallation on the geranium terrace.*

Photographs of the geranium terrace taken in the 1970s showed several panels of "Goyaesque" double-tile bullfight scenes on two walls and a large tile mural on the third wall. Searches in the main house basement and the studio turned up the bullfight tiles, but not a trace of the large mural could be found.

Barbara began working with local artisan Kip Harmer to refurbish the bullfight tiles to get them into

proper condition for reinstallation. An important consideration would be to mount them in such a way that rain and other moisture would not seep into the back of the tiles and lead to cracking and flaking of the glazed surfaces. Geoff Crane of Giffin & Crane and Peter Da Ros of Santa Barbara Stone were consulted, and they devised a plan for hanging the tile. Peter also proposed renovating the terrace fountain and



DRAWN BY ROBERT FOLEY

*This artist's rendition shows the planned new look for the geranium terrace, which will once again display Madame Walska's fascination with decorative ceramic tile. Completion of the first phase of the project is expected by the beginning of summer.*

*Continued from page 1*

Madame Walska bought. Barbara's archival sleuthing uncovered letters written to Ganna Walska from 1934 to 1939 by the New York firm of, as the letterhead noted, "Francisca Reyes, Importer of Spanish Antiques of All Periods—Furniture, Textiles, Potteries, Etc." Madame was purchasing tile for her Chateau de Galluis. She later brought the tiles to Santa Barbara. Among these was "A tiles Fontaine by Goya," purchased June 27, 1936, but very significant to the geranium terrace project was a "Signed Goya Panel showing bullfight in small village in Castilla," which Reyes offered for sale on October 17, 1939.



reconditioning the three large planter boxes that were covered with more double-tile bullfighting scenes.

The missing mural, however, still preyed on Barbara's mind. Where in the world could it have gone? After searching all the basement storage areas and the studio, she did not know where to turn. Unbeknownst to Barbara, around a dark corner of the main house basement, down a narrow walkway leading to two of the heating system furnaces, there was a large walk-in vault. Some of the staff recalled having been inside the vault in the years following

Madame's death, but could not remember exactly what it contained, only to say that it was nearly empty. Storms in 1995 had flooded the basement with four feet of muddy water, and the vault had not been unlocked since then. Although the combination worked, the heavy door had rusted to its frame and could not be budged. Santa Barbara Locksmiths was called, and the locksmith who came remembered having worked on the vault for Madame Walska years ago. With forceful, but careful, efforts, it finally swung free, only to reveal a disappointing coating of

dried mud up the first four feet of the wall, covering the few objects still inside.

Nothing looked particularly promising, but there were a few loose tiles that, once the dirt had been wiped off, Barbara recognized as being missing pieces of a series of bullfight tiles. However, off to one corner was a large cardboard box, nearly disintegrated from its immersion in the flooding. Lo and behold, it contained the tiles that comprised the missing mural, and most were in good condition. Barbara had solved the "Case of the Missing Mural."

## Spring Garden Tours

WITH VIRGINIA HAYES

### SUNDAY, MAY 16 PASADENA GARDENS TOUR

MODELED ON England's very popular Yellow Book and Australia's Open Garden Scheme, the Open Days Program instituted by the Garden Conservancy of America included 375 private gardens nationwide in 2003. This year the number of gardens is even higher and features some choice designs in Pasadena.

Gardens that are recruited for the Open Days Program must excel in maintenance, design and plant selection. Join Curator of the Living Collection Virginia Hayes on a daylong excursion to visit these exemplary gardens.

Travel in comfort by luxury coach in the company of other enthusiasts on Sunday, May 16. The tour departs from Santa Barbara at 8:30 AM and returns at approximately 6:30 PM.

The admission of \$100 for Lotusland members or \$110 for non-members includes transportation, lunch in Pasadena, and entrance to six gardens. To register, please use the coupon on page 15.

### SATURDAY, MAY 22 SANTA BARBARA GARDENS TOUR

THOUGH THE Open Days Program hasn't yet reached our community, you can enjoy the same kind of experience by joining Virginia Hayes on Saturday, May 22 for a look at outstanding private gardens in the

Santa Barbara area. With the cooperation of the creators of superior local gardens, our group will be afforded this rare privilege right here at home.

The cost of \$85 for Lotusland members and \$95 for nonmembers includes coach transportation, admission and lunch at Lotusland. This is a popular event, so sign up soon using the coupon on page 15.



Participants on the Santa Barbara Gardens Tour will enjoy visiting this Montecito garden with a marvelous mix of tropical and subtropical themes.





# THE GREAT LOTUSLAND CACTUS CAPER!

SATURDAY, JUNE 5 ■ 2:00 TO 6:00 PM

*PLEASE JOIN US FOR THIS SUCCULENT SOIREE celebrating Lotusland's new Desert Garden—a dramatic venue and spectacular home of the famed Dunlap Cactus Collection.*

Merritt “Sigs” Dunlap and Madame Walska met over dinner for the first time in 1941, and their friendship and plant collections grew over the years. The history of their alliance, culminating in a stunning new garden at Lotusland, is a tale of plant obsession and plant conservation.

*The afternoon will be spiked with the following delights:*

- Wine tasting from Santa Barbara County's finest vintners
  - Luscious hors d'oeuvres
  - Historic archives on display
- The spine-tingling saga of transplanting hundreds of 1,000-pound cacti nearly 200 miles—a prickly task at best!
- Cacti's juicy secrets revealed!

Please use the coupon on page 15 to register for this fun and enlightening event.





## New Look at the Garden Shop

THE GARDEN SHOP at Lotusland has a fresh new look, full of contemporary merchandise for your home and garden.

Volunteer Anne O'Connell and Trustee Barbara Siemon gave hours of their time and considerable talent to select new merchandise and to refurbish the shop's interior. Internationally known interior designer Bruce

Gregga contributed his expertise to redesign the Garden Shop's interior. It's filled with pots, plants, hats, gloves, books, and a fabulous array of decorative items for the garden.

Both Barbara and Anne have extensive backgrounds in retail. They collaborate on the purchasing, Barbara styles the shop, Anne does the ordering, and Lotusland's Man-

ager of Administration and Human Resources, Marguerite Gamo, is responsible for the bookkeeping and for scheduling volunteer salespeople.

On your next visit to Lotusland, be sure to stop in the shop—it's a perfect place to buy gifts or something special for your own garden—and take advantage of your 10% member discount.



Baskets, pots, plants, gardening gloves and an assortment of hats provide a sampling of the eye-catching variety of new merchandise in Lotusland's Garden Shop.



PHOTOS BY NELL CAMPBELL

Anne O'Connell (left) and Barbara Siemon are holding one of the beautiful orchids available at the newly refurbished Lotusland Garden Shop. Another popular item is the "lotus" plate that comes in several sizes. The shelves hold hand creams for gardeners, soap, candleholders, vases, books, botanical prints and a selection of garden accessories.



LEFT: In the Garden Shop patio, Barbara and Anne admire an appealing "organic salad" basket. Plants from Lotusland are available beautifully potted or ready for you to pot. RIGHT: Anne and Barbara hold a Lotusland umbrella, perfect for a sunny day in the garden. Other "Lotusland" merchandise includes garden tools, candles and note cards. The Garden Shop also stocks seasonal merchandise such as Easter basket items.





## NEW TO THE COLLECTIONS

# Cycads

ALONG WITH ALL the physical improvements accomplished during our recently completed cycad garden renovation, a number of new cycad plants were incorporated into the garden. Ready for the 2004 season, the cycad garden has never looked better, and the diversity of cycad genera exhibited is greater than ever.

The core of the collection of cycads on display remains the genus *Encephalartos* that comprises about one-third of those in the garden. *Dioon* too was already well represented, although a few new ones, notably *D. purpusii*, have been planted. The *Ceratozamia* section was extended with the addition of more than a dozen new plants. It is in the areas reserved for *Macrozamia* and *Zamia* that the increase in plants is most evident.

Joining several large specimens of *M. johnsonii* in the southeast corner of the garden are nearly 40 plants in 15 species of *Macrozamia* never



Several young *Macrozamia riedlei* (foreground) joined an old specimen of *M. johnsonii* (background) during the cycad garden renovation.



Five *Zamia integrifolia* plants in the new section were grown from seed as part of a research project at UC Berkeley and then donated to Lotusland.

before displayed at Lotusland. They are planted on three large mounds. The first group went in the ground in late summer of 2002 and a second contingent in the spring of the next year. Both groups are now well-established and making impressive new growth.

An entirely new area was created for specimens in the genus *Zamia* last year. Flanking the path that circles the garden on the western edge is a grouping of about 30 of them. Many species in this genus are quite tropical in origin, but these have proven hardy in our nursery and should do well in the garden. Included is a group of the only cycad native to North America, *Z. integrifolia*. In all, more than 100 new cycad plants have been included in this very successful garden renovation project.

—Virginia Hayes



Subtropical species of *Zamia* are now on display in the renovated garden. This group flanks the path that circles the garden on the western edge.





## VOLUNTEER PROFILE

# Judy Flynn and Frank Ramos— A Dynamic Duo in the Japanese Garden



CONNIE BUXTON

*Frank Ramos and Judy Flynn*

JUDY FLYNN WAS just leaving for her weekly garden maintenance stint at Lotusland when she first approached her Summerland neighbor Frank Ramos about joining her on her next visit to the garden. He readily agreed and fell in love with Lotusland at first sight. Although hesitant about volunteering on a regular basis, Judy's friendly persuasion eventually convinced Frank to become an "official" volunteer. For the past six years, this dynamic duo has been faithfully arriving together one day a week to work in the Japanese garden. They are so attuned to the needs of the garden that they rarely need instruction and just set to work on whatever garden maintenance items need attention.

They both have favorite tasks in the Japanese garden, and Judy especially likes keeping a particular hillside attractive through weeding, raking, cutting back foliage, and general TLC. Longtime Japanese gardener Frank Fujii refers to this hill as "Judy's Hill." Frank (Ramos) enjoys keeping the beautiful boulders in the Japanese garden free of debris and from becoming overgrown with groundcover. Frank Fujii calls him

"Rock Man." Both Judy and Frank are awed by Frank Fujii's incredible attention to aesthetic detail in the Japanese garden and his adherence to design elements imitating nature.

Having no yard of her own, Judy loves coming to Lotusland because it gives her an opportunity to garden. She is always amazed how such a spectacularly lush garden can be grown and maintained without the use of harmful chemicals and applauds Lotusland for its commitment to sustainable methods of plant health care. Frank says he has always been a nature lover and enjoys being surrounded by the stunning beauty of the garden while he works.

In an interesting twist of fate, in 1985 Frank attended an auction in El Paseo where many items from Madame Walska's estate were being auctioned. He successfully bid on five lovely small stained glass window hangings that had apparently been

in the pavilion, Madame Walska's former residence at Lotusland. Frank donated three of these to an auction at Mount Carmel church last November. When he heard from fellow parishioners that these hangings went for a large amount of money and a particular couple had been very disappointed at being outbid, he contacted the couple and gave them one of his two remaining hangings.

Judy and Frank both give so generously of themselves to help preserve the beauty of the garden, and Lotusland is so appreciative of their long-term partnership. Without their help and that of other garden maintenance volunteers, it would be impossible for the grounds staff to keep up with the huge amount of maintenance tasks in the garden. We always need more volunteers to help out in the garden! Thank you, Judy and Frank, for all you do for Lotusland.

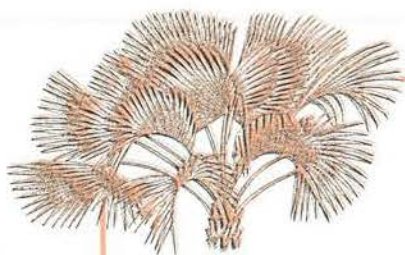
—Connie Buxton



CONNIE BUXTON

*Frank and Judy team up to help keep the Japanese garden looking its best.*





# Members' Stayin' Alive – How Pl

## SATURDAY, MAY

*Lotusland wishes to thank you, our members, for your support by hosting our seve*

**GENEROUSLY**  
*Thomas & Nancy Crawford, Jr.*

Activities



COURTESY PHOTO



*Boxtales performing Jambo Watoto T Games, face-painting and crafts*

*Dress up in costumes and take home a free silly souve*  
*Live music by*

## Members' Family Day is FREE!

But you must make a reservation by mailing the reservation form to save space for your family and to purchase box lunch tickets. One vehicle per membership. Please reserve early as we expect this event to fill quickly.

Bring your own picnic or pre-purchase box lunches catered by FRESCO.

Box lunches include a choice of chicken salad on sundried tomato bread, roast beef with swiss on a baguette or vegetarian with cheddar on ciabbata bread; fruit salad; and *Kettle* chips. Tickets for box lunches are available until April 26.

(Sorry, it will not be possible to buy tickets on the day of the event.)

A limited number of picnic blankets will be available, or you can bring your own.

*Complimentary juice, soft drinks and water are available all day.*

*Complimentary ice cream cones at the ice cream booth NOON TO 2 PM.*







PHOTOS BY NELL CAMPBELL

# Family Day Its Adapt at Lotusland

• 10 AM TO 4 PM

*annual Members' Family Day. Everyone is invited, especially children of all ages!*

**SPONSORED BY:**

*Honor of Their Grandchildren*

I include:



and Rhythms of Africa in the theatre garden • 11 AM TO NOON AND 2 TO 3 PM

the garden for children and adults • 10 AM TO NOON AND 2 TO 4 PM

photograph by wacky photographer extraordinaire Bob DeBris • 10 AM TO NOON AND 2 TO 4 PM

Quattro Jazz Quintet on the main lawn • NOON TO 2 PM

**RESERVATION INFORMATION:** Due to the popularity of this event and to allow as many members as possible to attend, **we request ONLY ONE VEHICLE PER MEMBERSHIP.** Admission to Members' Family Day is free, but reservations are required. *to phone reservations, please.*

Please return this reservation form to: Ganna Walska Lotusland, Attn: Member Events, 695 Ashley Road, Santa Barbara, CA 93108. **Our confirmation and a map will be mailed to you upon receipt of your reservation form.**

*Bring your own picnic or order prepaid box lunches. Your box lunch tickets will be mailed with your confirmation.*

## RESERVATION FORM

Member Name \_\_\_\_\_ No. of adults \_\_\_\_\_ No. of children under 2 \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ No. of teens \_\_\_\_\_ No. of children 2 to 12 \_\_\_\_\_

Please specify:

Chicken salad sandwich \$12 × \_\_\_\_\_ (NO.) = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Roast beef sandwich \$12 × \_\_\_\_\_ (NO.) = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Vegetarian sandwich \$12 × \_\_\_\_\_ (NO.) = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Payment Method: ☐ Check enclosed ☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard

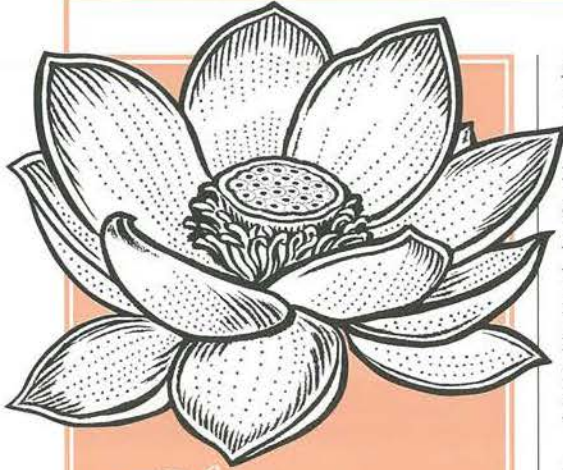
Total Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

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Signature \_\_\_\_\_







## The LOTUS SOCIETY

### LOTUSLAND UNVEILS THE WALL OF HONOR

THE WALL OF HONOR was conceived as way to honor members of *The Lotus Society* and Lotusland

*Benefactors*. Lifetime membership in *The Lotus Society* is reserved for those who contribute \$10,000 or more to the Endowment Fund either as an outright or estate-planned gift. A *Benefactor* is defined as anyone who has cumulatively donated \$25,000 or more to Lotusland since its founding. The Wall of Honor was completed in time for the first day of 2004 tours on February 18.

Architect Don Nulty donated his design services for the elegant Wall of Honor, which is located at the Visitor Center at the end of the Australian tea tree arbor. Trustee Barbara Siemon coordinated the entire project and arranged for substantial donations from Pat Scott Masonry, Kimzey Painting, and the stunning lion's head fountain from Dennis & Leen.

The center panel of the Wall of Honor reads:



*Time and circumstances  
permitting, I hopefully dreamt  
that I might fulfill my work to  
develop Lotusland to its maximum  
capacity into the most outstanding  
center of horticultural significance  
and of educational use.*

August 7, 1979

*Ganna Walska*

Names of donors to *The Lotus Society* are inscribed on the left panel, while the right panel lists *Benefactors*.







## The Lotus Society

2002

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There are many ways to make a planned gift to Lotusland's Endowment Fund. You might want to consider one of the following:

- Bequest by Will
- Outright Cash Gift
- Multi-Year Pledge
- Gift of Stock, Bonds or Mutual Funds
- Gift of Real Estate
- Life Insurance Gift
- A Provision in Your Living Trust
- Gift of Retirement Fund Assets
- Personal Residence—Future Interest
- Gift of Collectibles or Personal Property

To learn more about *The Lotus Society* or if you would like to arrange a personal consultation with one of the experienced estate planners on *The Lotus Society* Committee, please call Anne Dewey, Lotusland's Director of Development, at (805) 969-3767, extension 105. —Anne Dewey



Thank you to these members of **The Lotus Society** and to our **Benefactors** whose generous donations help preserve Lotusland as an oasis of beauty and serenity for future generations to enjoy.



## TRAVEL WITH LOTUSLAND Private Gardens in Seattle MAY 18-23

JOIN LOTUSLAND's Executive Director, Steven Timbrook, Trustee Arthur Gaudi, and other Lotusland members to see some of the finest private gardens in Seattle, at the peak of the blooming season. Our unusual itinerary for a week in Seattle is far from the standard garden viewing. As famous as Seattle's horticultural scene is its cuisine. We have chosen some of Seattle's finest restaurants in which to savor the abundant fresh local seafood and other regional specialties. It will be easy to enjoy museums, art galleries and shops from our centrally located hotel. Optional activities include a performance by Dawn Upshaw and the Seattle Symphony and a Seattle Opera performance of Puccini's *The Girl of the Golden West*. Please call (805) 969-3767, ext. 121 for further details.



JOHN NEFF

*One of the many private gardens we'll visit is this large city garden with a small woodland, both shady and sunny borders, a mature rock garden, and vegetable and fruit gardens. It is part of what was a large holly farm 100 years ago, and holly hedges remain by the house.*

## Thirty-three New Docents Graduate

AFTER A RIGOROUS 16-week training program, the docent class of 2003 proudly poses for a group photo at their graduation ceremony on February 9. Lotusland's 2004 tour season began on Wednesday, February 18, and our new docents got their feet wet both literally and figuratively that day. It was pouring rain, but everyone sloshed good-naturedly through the garden despite the deluge.

—Connie Buxton



MOLLY HOUSTON

## Educational Outreach Teachers' Reception/Workshop

OUTREACH DOCENT Jane Copelan (below, left) leads a group of teachers through the garden at the 4th annual Educational Outreach Teachers' Reception/Workshop, held on Saturday January 31. This event introduces teachers to the program goals and serves as a thank you to all teachers for partnering with Lotusland to teach students the important role plants play and the need for their conservation.

—Connie Buxton



MOLLY HOUSTON



# Friends of Lotusland

We Welcome New Members Who Joined in November, December 2003 and January 2004

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*Continued on page 14*

## Members Who Have Increased Their Level of Support November, December 2003 and January 2004

### LEVEL II

Mr. & Mrs. Peter Adams  
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*Continued from page 13*

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The Cactus Garden Installation  
Montecito Bank & Trust,  
Community Dividend Donation  
The Outhwaite Foundation,  
4th Grade Educational  
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Stanley Smith Horticultural Trust,  
2004 Sustainable Plant Health  
Care Internship



# Ganna Walska Lotusland Registration Form

PAYMENT METHOD: ☐ Check enclosed ☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard Expiration date \_\_\_\_\_

Card number \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Member name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

*One member pass may be used as partial payment for any event.*

*Fees are refundable only if cancellation is received one week before class or lecture.*

*If minimum enrollment is not reached, classes and lectures may be canceled. No phone reservations, please.*

Mail to: Ganna Walska Lotusland, Attn: Member Events, 695 Ashley Road, Santa Barbara, CA 93108

## The Great Lotusland Cactus Caper!

Saturday, June 5, 2004 • 2:00 TO 6:00 PM • \$45/members • \$50/nonmembers

No. of people attending \_\_\_\_\_ No. of cars \_\_\_\_\_ Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## Spring Garden Tour • Pasadena Gardens

With VIRGINIA HAYES

Sunday, May 16, 2004 • \$100/members • \$110/nonmembers

No. of people attending \_\_\_\_\_ No. of cars \_\_\_\_\_ Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## Spring Garden Tour • Santa Barbara Gardens

With VIRGINIA HAYES

Saturday, May 22, 2004 • \$35/members • \$95/nonmembers

No. of people attending \_\_\_\_\_ Bus pick-up information will be on confirmation Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### DUNLAP CACTUS GARDEN MATCHING GRANT

Jeffrey & Margo Barbakow  
Mrs. Rowe Giesen  
in honor of Carol Valentine  
Dean & Torin San Moray  
in appreciation of docent  
Harlis Maggard

### DUNLAP CACTUS GARDEN DESIGN

Mr. Eric Nagelmann

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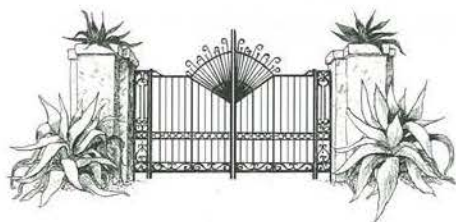
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## 2004 Member Events

MANY LOTUSLAND EVENTS are open to nonmembers, so please let your friends and neighbors know about the great activities we offer. Children are welcome at many events, and Family Tour Days are every Thursday and the second Saturday of each month (see the last item in the listing). We hope you enjoy the year 2004 at Lotusland.

### **Saturday, March 27**

*Self-guided Tours  
for All Members*

10:00 AM–12:30 PM

Members \$15 or use admission pass. Call (805) 969-9990 for reservations 9 AM–NOON, M–F.

### **Saturday, May 1**

*Members' Family Day  
Stayin' Alive—How Plants  
Adapt at Lotusland*

10:00 AM–4:00 PM

See details and reservation form on pages 8 and 9.

### **Saturday, May 15**

*Self-guided Tours  
for All Members*

1:30 PM–4:30 PM

Members \$15 or use admission pass. Call (805) 969-9990 for reservations 9 AM–NOON, M–F.

### **Sunday, May 16**

*Pasadena Gardens Tour  
with Virginia Hayes*

Members \$100/nonmembers \$110.

See details on page 3; use reservation form on page 15 to sign up.

### **May 18–23**

*Travel with Lotusland:  
Private Gardens in Seattle*

See details on page 12 or please call (805) 969-3767, extension 121 for information.

### **Saturday, May 22**

*Santa Barbara Gardens Tour  
with Virginia Hayes*

Members \$85/nonmembers \$95.

See details on page 3; use reservation form on page 15 to sign up.

### **Saturday, June 5**

*The Great Lotusland Cactus Caper!*

2:00 PM–6:00 PM

Members \$45/nonmembers \$50.

See details on page 4; use reservation form on page 15 to sign up.

### **Family Tours**

Family tours for all ages are offered Thursdays at 10:00 AM and 1:30 PM and the second Saturday of each month at 10:00 AM and 1:30 PM (except between mid-November and mid-February). Family tours are child and parent friendly and are separate from regular adult tours. Adult members \$15 or use admission passes; children under ten \$8; children under two free. Call (805) 969-9990 for reservations 9 AM–NOON, M–F.