



LOTUSLAND

NEWSLETTER FOR MEMBERS ♦ VOLUME 25 NO. 1 ♦ WINTER 2016

Cycads—Living Fossils

BY VIRGINIA HAYES

THE VEGETATION of the earth 200 million years ago (mya) looked quite different than it does today, but if a former visitor to Lotusland were transported back in time, there is one group of plants that would be immediately recognizable. Madame Walska's final gift to the world of botany and horticulture was the creation of the cycad garden, where she collected and staged hundreds of these striking and rare plants.

Cycads and their relatives were actually a dominant plant group during the middle and late Mesozoic era (approximately 225 mya to 65 mya, including the Triassic, Jurassic and Cretaceous periods). In fact, the Jurassic period is sometimes referred to as the "Age of Cycads." Unlike the dinosaurs, which were prominent fauna of that same period, many plant groups, including cycads, survived the mass extinction of life on earth that occurred at the end of the Cretaceous period. Modern cycads have no direct relatives from that time, but evolved from just a few isolated lineages that then radiated throughout the newly forming continents.

Botanists have classified cycads as "gymnosperms." They represent one line of ancient seed plants. Many are now extinct, but four major groups still live today. These are the cycads (Cycadophyta), the Welwitschia group (Gnetophyta), the conifers (Pinophyta) and Ginkgo, the maiden hair tree (only *Ginkgo biloba* remains to represent the Ginkgophyta). These four groups of gymnosperms are very different from one another in appearance, but they all form naked ovules in contrast to the flowering plants in which the ovules are

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PHOTOS BY BOB CRAIG

Most cycads produce what is called a "flush" of leaves nearly every year. A number of leaves emerge at the same time from the central growing point of the plant. Reproductive structures, or "cones," arise here as well in alternate cycles from the leaves.

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Mission Statement

We preserve and enhance the unique historic estate of Madame Ganna Walska, care for and improve its collections, and develop its conservation and horticulture programs, so they educate us, inspire us, and advance our understanding and appreciation of the importance of plants in our lives and in the life of the planet.



Because the male cones produce millions of tiny pollen grains, while the female cones support the development of a relatively few large seeds, their shape and size are often quite different. Here are cones of Cycas revoluta, male on left and female on right. In the female of this species, it is easy to see how the individual cone scales are derived from leaves (note divisions along margins).

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enclosed in an ovary (the “cherry” is a part of the ovary, while the “pit” is the seed, for example).

Cycad reproductive structures are cone-shaped and come in a variety of shapes, colors and sizes; they are sometimes good diagnostic tools for botanists. These cones are developed from the main growing point of the plant and are essentially an aggregation of modified leaves. Plants may be exclusively female or male depending on whether they produce seeds or pollen. Cycad sex is aided by hungry, libidinous insects. In healthy populations in native habitats, both sexes grow in near proximity, and reproduction is accomplished by a variety of insects, very often specific to the particular cycad species, that perform the task of carrying pollen from the male cones to the female cones. Many species have developed sometimes complex syndromes that include scents or safe haven for pollinators to complete the reproductive cycles of the insects. The odors may serve to attract pollinators at an appropriate moment while later the cone increases production of that chemical to repel the insects and force them to leave the cone. Some employ heat to help volatilize the odoriferous compound even when it is cold outside. Each day between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. the male cone can heat itself up 25 degrees Fahrenheit warmer than the surrounding air (which may be as hot as 100 degrees Fahrenheit). Pollen is also the main staple of these insects’ diet, so their foraging brings them in direct

contact with pollen grains that cling to them as they fly away. While female cones don’t smell as strong, they emit enough of the attractant so that some pollen-covered insects, seeking more pollen to eat, are inadvertently lured in and pollinate them.

All of this activity occurs during a fairly short period in the life of the plants and their cones—as few as four weeks in length. Timing is everything, but the insects and the cycads have been perfecting their reproductive act for a very long time. Unfortunately, cycad species diversity and distribution is severely threatened in most natural populations due to human activities. Many species are now being protected, largely in botanical gardens and other institutions dedicated to their survival.



Assistant Curator Paul Mills introduces a slurry of previously collected pollen mixed with water into the female cone during its brief period of receptivity.



Seeds are sown in flats filled with pumice. The radicle (precursor to the roots) burrows into the medium first (foreground) before the first leaf is produced (center).

Governmental and land conservancy agencies are slowly joining in the effort by establishing habitat preserves to safeguard the ecosystems that support cycad populations. Outside of their natural environment and without the natural insect pollinators, it falls to cycad's human caretakers to lend a helping hand. In order to increase the numbers of plants, either for possible relocation back into their native range or to provide specimens for avid collectors, seed and pollen exchanges are part of their conservation strategies.

Lotusland's cycad collection includes some species of interest because of their rarity, but also those that are more desirable to collectors (leaves with a bluish cast seem to garner much

admiration). By carefully watching female cones to estimate the window of receptivity for pollen, staff has been able to hand-pollinate and produce seed on a number of species. Pollen can be collected whenever it is available and stored in our secure nursery facility until that time arrives.

There is another unique characteristic of cycads that may point to their ability to survive and even thrive for so many millions of years. Although not truly woody, as are other conifers such as pines, their stems are often quite stout and are composed of tissues that store water and nutrients for extended periods of time. Individual plants can live hundreds of years and continue to reproduce, providing offspring for many generations. A number of species are



The entire male cone is removed from the plant when it begins to shed pollen and kept in a still, dry place for collection.



Once seeds have matured on the cone, it disintegrates to release them. Some germinate nearby, but others may be removed and eaten by a variety of animals.

adapted to periodic wildfires with the growing point located at or just below the soil level or protected by tough new and old leaves and can generate new leaves soon after being burned. This could also have served to protect them from large herbivores that may have been present in their geologic past. No such predators exist today; the main pests of cycads are now a few insects, and outbreaks are fairly localized.

Madame Walska valued her cycads for their dramatic forms and their scarcity in nurseries and gardens (they were very collectable). Today Lotusland preserves that early vision as well as cooperates in efforts to protect and to propagate the valuable germplasm they contain.

Colombia Cycad Conference

PAUL MILLS, Lotusland Assistant Curator, attended the 10th International Conference on Cycad Biology in Medellín, Colombia, from August 16–21, 2015, with an optional week-long post-conference tour. Lotusland curatorial staff has attended this conference almost since its inception; it is held every three years in distinct corners of the world.

This is an amazing opportunity to meet the world leaders in the study of cycads. The conference was both informative and interesting with topics covering everything from conservation, ethnobotany and horticulture to genetics and systematics, pollination biology and evolution.

The post-conference tour took participants from the biodiverse Chocó bioregion along the Pacific lowland

forests to high up in the tropical Andes. Along the way, six different species of the genus *Zamia* were seen in the wild, including what has been confirmed to be a new, undescribed species. They

also visited the incomparable Dolmetsch Arboretum in the mountains above Cali, Quindío Botanic Garden and the world's tallest palm, *Ceroxylon quidiuense*, in habitat.
—Paul Mills



10th International Conference on Cycad Biology in Medellín, Colombia.

Director's Letter

WE ARE THRILLED to finally release the second edition of Ganna Walska's memoirs, *Always Room at the Top*, after seven years of preparing a copy that could be published with modern technology. Because the images in the first edition could not be reproduced, we painstakingly researched our archives to find all the original images Madame selected for her book, and only then were we able to accurately replicate Madame's work.

Lotusland's archives are one of the most important collections we own, with original documents, images, plans and personal effects that reveal the long history of this estate, as well as the development of the garden and the life of Ganna Walska. Our archival research continuously reveals previously

unknown—and fascinating—details about Ganna Walska's daily routines and activities; her time in the garden and with family, friends and acquaintances; and her generosity to so many people and organizations. We have barely plumbed the depth of the archives for all the information they hold, and we are certain they contain immense knowledge yet to be discovered. Lotusland does not have the funds to support a professional position of archivist, so we accomplish bits of research ourselves, or with the extraordinary help from Rose Thomas and Kathy Hulick, who volunteer in our archives.

Even as we work to protect rare and endangered plants in our garden collections, we are very aware of the vulnerability of the precious and irre-



LEA ANNA DROWN

Gwen Stauffer

placeable items in our archives. That vulnerability becomes especially palpable when Lotusland is at risk of a natural disaster, particularly fire. In the last eight years, Lotusland has been subject to fire warnings and evacuations several times. Unlike many of the plants in our collections, which thrive in fire ecologies and could recover from such a disaster, our fragile archives would be gone forever.

In the recent Gibraltar fire, Lotusland's staff had the luxury of time to execute a disaster response plan to save the archives. We had a real-life fire drill, and in the aftermath, our plan proved woefully inadequate. Lotusland's long-term strategy is to place the archives in a fire-proof environmentally controlled facility, where we do not give up ownership or control of the archives, and we maintain total access.

In the meantime, as we continue to delve into the archives, we will share its stories and secrets with you.

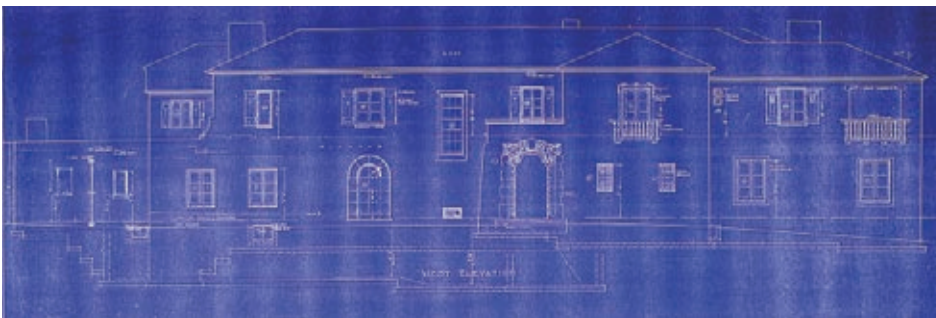
With warm regards,
Gwen Stauffer



Ganna Walska and Harold McCormick from 1929. Many of the original photographs from *Always Room at the Top* had to be found, scanned and retouched for the second edition.



La Petite Illustration was a weekly French literary journal that published plays, novels and short stories. This issue features Ganna Walska, who performed in the play *La Castiglione*.



Reginald Johnson's blueprints for Cuesta Linda, commissioned by the Gavit family, are a treasured part of the archives, not only for Lotusland, but also in the history of architecture and Santa Barbara.



This Gavit era photograph by Jessie Tarbox Beals of the path leading away from the dining room provides a valuable historical record of Lotusland prior to Ganna Walska's design influence.

COLLECTIONS NEWS

Encephalartos woodii Comes to Lotusland: How Madame Has Her Way

IN THE LATE 1960s or early 1970s, workers at the Durban Botanic Garden in South Africa removed 10 to 12 suckers from the now-famous cycad that grew there. These suckers were growing out of the main trunk some distance above the ground, and it was feared that they would make the plant top heavy and cause it to fall. Three of these suckers would eventually find their way to Santa Barbara and Madame's garden through the efforts of Loran Whitelock.

Loran had an ongoing relationship with several cycad collectors and growers in South Africa and actively imported plants for his collection and to sell to other collectors in the U.S. (this was quite legal in those years prior to the institution of CITES). One of his contacts was Ernest Thorp, then the Curator at the Durban Botanic Garden, who was building up a collection of award-winning orchids to enhance his

Botanic Garden. Because of trade restrictions, he was unable to buy orchids outside of South Africa directly. So in exchange for several of the *Encephalartos woodii* suckers, Loran agreed to pay the equivalent of their cost to several orchid suppliers in the U.S. for orchids ordered by Thorp.

In 1967 Madame bought the first of her *E. woodii* specimens from Loran for the modest sum of \$750. It was planted near the theatre with her other cycads. A year or two later, she made a trip to Loran's house and nursery in Eagle Rock, California, and saw another *E. woodii* planted in his garden with the rest of his personal collection. She immediately proposed to buy it. Loran explained that this particular plant was not for sale; but that he had another, better plant in a pot. Madame continued to insist that Loran sell her the plant in the ground while he continued to resist.

About three hours later (just

enough time for Madame to make her way back to Lotusland), Loran got a call from Otto Martins, a Santa Barbara horticulturist who often advised and procured plants for Madame. Loran explained again to Otto that the plant Madame had seen in his garden was not for sale, but that another in a pot was. Otto thanked Loran and hung up. Otto called a total of four times trying to negotiate a deal that would satisfy Madame. On the third call, Loran informed him that Madame could have either of the plants for \$2500. On the fourth call, Otto told Loran that Madame would take them both at that price. With his next trip to South Africa already planned to begin in six weeks, Loran acquiesced. He was sure the extra money would come in handy for that trip and was reasonably sure he could get another *E. woodii* for his collection. In fact, he was able to bring back another six offsets.

—Virginia Hayes



Ganna Walska purchased three *Encephalartos woodii* cycads (the "Three Bachelors") from Loran Whitelock's nursery in Eagle Rock.

Meet Jon Glasoe

CAMPAIGN DIRECTOR, JAPANESE GARDEN RENOVATION

AFTER NEARLY 10 years of dreaming and planning, Lotusland is excited to announce that the campaign to renovate the Japanese garden has begun. Jon Glasoe, Campaign Director/Japanese Garden, has joined the Development team at Lotusland to head up the effort. Originally from northern Minnesota (actually, think Fargo, the show or the movie), Jon received his undergraduate degree from California Lutheran University in Thousand Oaks and his Masters in Nonprofit Management and Leadership from the University of San Diego.

For more than 20 years, Glasoe has had a varied career in different aspects and types of fundraising. He began his nonprofit career with credit unions and the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce and eventually with Big Brothers Big Sisters of America National in Philadelphia, PA. He has since held a variety of fundraising positions here in Santa Barbara. Jon joined Direct Relief as a Senior Development Officer, raising awareness and funds from outside of Santa Barbara.

Since then, he has taken on development efforts as the Campaign Manager

for the new Santa Barbara Public Library Children's Library and main floor relocation and renovation, and become the interim Finance Director for the Helene Schneider for Congress campaign.

When the opportunity to make an impact at Lotusland came, Jon jumped at the chance to mix his Minnesota 4H experience and love of gardening with his passion for giving donors an opportunity to make impactful and transformative changes for the community. It just so happens that the Japanese garden is one of his favorites.

"I am very excited to be part of this great team that works with the community," Glasoe says. "Lotusland preserves a very unique botanical garden estate and continues to be relevant to the growing importance of sustainable gardening and the reality of our current drought, but the history contained within the original home—beyond the beautiful gardens and features—is simply remarkable."

According to exit polls by members and guests, the Japanese garden continues to be a favorite. Plans include making the garden ADA compliant and



Jon Glasoe, MA

accessible by all members and visitors, making features more visible, adding four more entrances into the garden and—for Glasoe, the most intriguing feature—esthetically "framing" the views visitors will have as they enter the area of the pond.

About Lotusland in general, Glasoe goes on to say, "Madame's wonderfully creative idiosyncratic Japanese garden design is only part of Lotusland's incredible story: the archives she amassed during a period of not only European history but of nascent modern American history, especially before WWI all the way through to the 1980s, is fascinating."

For more information about how you can help, volunteer or join the campaign, contact Jon at 805.969.3767 or at jglasoe@lotusland.org.

Thinking Outside the Classroom



UCSB students enjoying a Japanese literature class at Lotusland.

IN A RECENT October afternoon, Lotusland hosted several University of California Santa Barbara students enrolled in "Literary Practice and the Garden in Classical Japan." Madame Walska's Japanese-style garden provided the stimulation for students to explore the inspiration that natural phenomena gave to classical Japanese poets and the connections between social poetry practices and the garden.

Lotusland enjoys the opportunity to work with the community to help foster both a greater understanding of our mission and to fulfill Ganna Walska's desire to "develop Lotusland to its maximum capacity into the most outstanding center of horticultural significance and of educational use." Our botanic, historical and cultural resources are rich, and we enjoy the opportunity to share them with the community.

HORTICULTURAL HAPPENINGS

The Insectary Garden

DESIGNING A GARDEN to attract beneficial insects may seem simple, but the process is much more intricate than most people think. Even accomplished gardeners who consider their work completely sustainable and organic can miss the mark. It is necessary to choose the right plants, plant them at the right time and have them flower in succession throughout the entire year. Fortunately, it is possible to make the garden aesthetically pleasing while creating an ecologically beneficial environment.

Insects depend on pollen, nectar and other food sources, so the plants chosen for the garden must provide these basic needs. The plants that evolved right here in California are usually the best choices for the insects we want to attract. Our local insects endured a co-evolution with the plants of California, so a good insectary design will incorporate at least fifty percent native California plants. Consider planting *Ceanothus* 'Joyce Cutler,' which will attract hoverflies, native bees and butterflies. Another excellent choice is California buckwheat (*Erigeron fasciculatum*). Entomologists, botanists and horticulturists must screen non-

native plants carefully to make sure they truly feed and house the beneficial insects needed in the garden at large. Species and cultivars of lavender (*Lavendula*) are excellent non-native plant selections.

Lotusland's insectary garden renovation project set out to accomplish three key goals:

1. **Make the garden ADA compliant.** We are altering a few of the paths to accommodate wheelchairs and at the same time creating appropriate gathering places for tour groups.

2. **Incorporate the garden with the surrounding features.** The design aesthetic is being altered to more effectively work with the lemon arbor, the olive allée and the citrus orchards while creating natural entry and exit points.

3. **Select plants for optimum effectiveness.** Plantings in the garden will include the plant species we use in our current insectaries, along with others that new research has shown to be most effective in attracting beneficial insects.

This garden is integral to our sustainable horticulture program. It was our first insectary where we raised early populations of beneficial insects that eventually spread across the garden.



California buckwheat has attracted this beneficial big headed fly.



The beneficial Mining Bee on a Ceanothus 'Joyce Cutler.'

With this renovation, the garden will once again be a true insectary garden—not just a garden for butterflies (also pollinators)—but to attract other kinds of beneficials that we depend upon for our sustainable horticulture program to be successful.

Because Lotusland's current insectaries are located on the outside edges and behind the historic gardens, and are not accessible to the public, this garden will demonstrate how we create and use insectaries as part of our sustainable horticulture practices and hopefully will inspire home gardeners to do the same.

We are fortunate to have Eric Nagelmann's artistic talents to put a contemporary spin on our garden so that it is keeping with Ganna Walska's aesthetic and is much more than a stereotypical habitat garden. In addition, many new plants will be tested along with the tried and true hedgerow plants that make up our current insectaries. We are sure that visitors will be happily surprised at the beautiful flowers, massive blooms of the native plants and the amount of other wildlife that will find a home in this garden.

—Corey Welles



Lotusland Plant Health Coordinator Corey Welles discusses plant selection with insectary garden designer Eric Nagelmann.

Hania Puacz Tallmadge, Lotus Society Member Living and Leaving a Lotusland Legacy

HANIA TALLMADGE has been a member of *The Lotus Society* since 2012. Her long relationship with the garden began in 1947 when she and her parents, Leon and Marysia Puacz, moved from their native Poland to live with Hania's famous aunt Ganna Walska at Lotusland.

We recently enjoyed an afternoon reminiscing with Hania as she shared scrapbooks and recollections of living in the enchanting and fairy tale-like setting of Lotusland.

When she first arrived in California, Hania did not speak English so her aunt insisted she attend a girl's camp that was located on the grounds of the present Casa Dorinda. Hania believes the real intention wasn't as much to learn English as it was for Hania to learn

to swim so she could fully enjoy the glorious new swimming pool Ganna Walska had just constructed.

After summer camp, Hania went to the Montecito School for Girls where her English improved by leaps and bounds. In her first year, she carpoiled with her new friend Lolita Mitchell (granddaughter of Mrs. Ogden Armour of Chicago) in their chauffeur-driven limousine. The following year, her aunt bought Hania a bicycle to make the three and a half mile trek. By the time she was a junior, Ganna Walska bought her a "woody" convertible that Hania said made her very popular!

Hania and her family lived in the "Green Cottage," a house currently used by the garden staff, which according to Hania was the "social center" of

the estate in that era. Hania's mother delighted everyone with her extraordinary cooking, and they often ate out of doors to take full advantage of the lovely California climate.

Summers were very special at Lotusland, as guests arrived often and sometimes stayed for the whole summer, as did Hania's favorite guest "Sandra" who was Baroness Alexandra Fredericks (Ganna Walska's first sister-in-law). Sandra's father-in-law was Tsar Nicolas's best friend and personal physician. Sandra shared many wonderful anecdotes of their lives back in St. Petersburg. Celebrities were frequent visitors, such as Gloria Swanson and her daughter, with whom Hania shared a memorable day swimming in the pool.



Dressed for a summer day at Lotusland.



Hania and her parents, Marysia and Leon Puacz, on the front steps of the Green Cottage.



Hania in the "woody" that her aunt gave her to drive to school.



Hania among the lotus in the Japanese garden.

Hania recounts shopping with her aunt in Beverly Hills, lunching at Romanoff's, attending fashion shows at Adrian's, going to the theater and seeing many movie stars. Hania said that Ganna Walska "was mad about going to the theater. Four or five seats, front row, left-hand side, were always reserved for my aunt for anything given at the Lobero, Granada or Fox theaters. In between, she liked going to the master classes given by Lotte Lehmann at the Music Academy of the West. I was included in all these activities. I was always dressed in evening dresses, furs, theater coats and my aunt would check if I had all my best jewelry on. She of course was always dressed beautifully, too, with her jewels on."

Hania went on to graduate from the prestigious Scripps College in Claremont and lived at the Green Cottage until she married Mark Bacon in 1957 and moved to the famous Bacon estate on East Valley Road (now home to Oprah Winfrey). Hania and Mark had a lavish wedding reception at Lotusland attended by more than 400 guests. She recalls "a beautiful day on the lawn. Throwing my bouquet from the second-story balcony to the patio below and being driven away by Troy the chauffeur in my aunt's open

Cadillac convertible to a spray of rice down the main driveway for a honeymoon in Hawaii."

The Coyote Fire of 1964 forced the evacuation of many Montecito residents, including Hania who was living on Cowles Road at the time. Hania helped her mother and aunt evacuate Lotusland. The only thing Ganna Walska took with her was her bird, Happy. No jewelry, no artwork, just her beloved bird.



*Hania Puacz Tallmadge
Ganna Walska's niece*

Hania says that her aunt struggled over how she would preserve Lotusland in the future. Neither the City of Santa Barbara nor Westmont College wanted to take on the property so Madame created the Ganna Walska Lotusland Foundation in 1958. Years later, it was fortunate that Harold Tallmadge, Hania's second husband and an attorney, discovered that the foundation's legal status had expired, and he renewed it. If he had not done this, Lotusland would have been left in limbo when Madame Walska passed away in 1984. Hania is hopeful that the community will always treasure her beloved Lotusland that her aunt so generously gifted to them.

In addition to being a member of *The Lotus Society*, Hania has made numerous generous donations to Lotusland, has given countless hours of her time and has donated many treasures inherited from her aunt, including the famous "Czar's Portrait." Hania has generously shared her invaluable personal recollections of the life of Ganna Walska, which will forever be a part of the fascinating story of Lotusland. Hania, we are all very grateful for everything you do for Lotusland—the legacy of an amazing woman! —Anne Dewey and Bob Craig



Curt Coughlin

WORKING IN THE GARDEN and listening to music are two of Curt's greatest passions. At his home garden, Curt has designed and modified his bird feeders in such a fashion to simultaneously accommodate a menagerie of avian visitors; 10 finches eating seeds, six humming birds drinking nectar while another bird gnarls on an apple peel. Curt can often be found tending his garden while the buttery

sound of Frank Sinatra's voice flows from inside his house.

Lotusland and the gardeners have given Curt ideas and inspiration for his home garden, and Ozzi Da Ros chimed in for some ideas on steps and a stone wall. His garden is mainly exotic South African succulents with some agave species, and an enormous *Furcraea* with an inflorescence that reaches at least 40 feet into the air and lasts for a whole year.

Curt left Michigan and moved to Los Angeles to be in the music business, settling in Echo Park overlooking a lotus-filled water garden. Fifteen years ago, Curt and his wife Sallie moved to Santa Barbara from Venice Beach to be closer to Sallie's parents. Upon discovering Lotusland, they joined *The Lotus Society* and Curt enrolled in the docent training in 2002. The majority of Curt's volunteer efforts are in the garden where he enjoys working with all the gardeners. Curt worked for a time in the Japanese

garden with Frank Fujii and has since helped out in the fern garden, water garden and topiary garden.

Curt and Sallie enjoy traveling the country in their Volkswagen camper—"The Swiss Army Knife of RVs." They prefer discovering places off the beaten path and exploring what seems like unexplored territory. Curt and Sallie just celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary and are on their way to Palm Springs to celebrate Frank Sinatra's 100th birthday.

Both Curt and Sallie are busy with organizations they believe in—Curt: Lotusland, Direct Relief International, Seal Watch and the Santa Barbara International Film Festival; and Sally: Women's Fund for 25 years and Santa Barbara Library System. Curt agreed to let me interview him for the sake of his beloved 97-year-old mother and his great fondness for Lotusland. Thank you, Curt!

—Kitty Thomassin

Help Make Lotusland's Wishes Come True

ELECTRIC GENERATOR SUBARU RGV13100T

TO KEEP LOTUSLAND operating during our frequent power outages and to alleviate the necessity to rent an event generator. \$5000.



RAIN PONCHOS FOR FOURTH GRADE OUTREACH

TO HELP THE STUDENTS maximize their learning even during our anticipated winter rains. \$4.50 each.



TO DONATE FUNDS for these items, please call Anne Dewey, Lotusland's Director of Development, at 805.969.3767, ext. 105, or email her at adewey@lotusland.org. Thank you so much to our incredible members who have helped us with our Wish List items—it makes such a big difference in our day-to-day operations, and we are very grateful.

Thank You to Our

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Lotusland Welcomes New Trustees

THIS YEAR, we welcome two new members to the Board of Trustees, Caroline Thompson and Yasmine Zodeh.

Caroline Thomson is a principal of Cabana Home, a home furnishing and design store, with husband Steve Thompson. Her involvement and growing passion for Lotusland began with the Cabana Home transformation of the pavilion into a luxury “stay-cation” auction item for *Lotusland Celebrates: The Secret Garden* in 2009. She has been



Caroline Thompson

a member of the *Lotusland Celebrates* committee for the past six years in various roles including auction co-chair and tri-chair for this year’s *Passage to India*. Caroline co-chaired the *Gifts for the Garden* campaign with Connie Percy in 2013. Caroline and Steve have been Lotusland members for many years.

Caroline graduated with a B.S. from the University of Texas. The Texas ties continue with a Millennial daughter, Caroline, living and working in Dallas whose dream one day is to be married at Lotusland! Caroline serves on the Girl’s Inc. board, the executive committee and the 100 committee. She co-chaired the 2014 Christmas at the Casa (Del Herrero) with Steve and is a member of the Santa Barbara Museum of Art PhotoFutures and All Saints by the Sea Flower Guild.

Also joining the Board of Trustees is Yasmine Zodeh. Yasmine is a writer, editor and independent arts curator. Her articles have been featured in international publications such as *Artinfo*, *The Art Newspaper*, *The Huffington Post*, *Modern Painters* and *Newsweek*. As *Artinfo*’s Los Angeles correspondent, she provided extensive coverage of the city’s dynamic and diverse artistic community. She has curated numerous art exhibitions and art events, including collaborations

with Christie’s, *Vanity Fair* and artist Shepard Fairey.

Yasmine served on the *Lotusland Celebrates* committee in 2014 and 2015 and was tri-chair this year. Yasmine commissioned LA artist Zoe Crosher to create a unique sculpture series for Lotusland, including an auction item for *Passage to India*. Yasmine currently lives in Montecito with husband Sam and two daughters. She and her husband are members of the LACMA Avant Garde young support group.



Yasmine Zodeh

Ganna Walska Lotusland Financials Are Online

LOTUSLAND IS PROUD of our responsible financial stewardship, and we have recently added all of our pertinent financial reporting information to our website. Go to www.Lotusland.org and in the “About Us” tab, navigate to “Financials.” All the current tax and reporting information is available on that page. The 2014 Annual Report can

be downloaded as a PDF; IRS tax forms 990 for 2011–13 and links to the audited financial statements are also available on this page.

Ganna Walska Lotusland is a 501(c)(3) Public Charity, and on the same page is a link to the IRS website designating this listing. In many instances, this information is required for charitable contributions.





Experience the Aloe garden in glorious bloom.

Winter Walk

SATURDAY, JANUARY 23
1:00 TO 3:30 PM

IN THE WINTER MONTHS, the spectacular blooms of the aloes make the garden come alive in a most spectacular fashion. Enjoy this unique educational opportunity to see the garden when Lotusland is closed for public tours.

Spend an afternoon in the garden and enjoy more than 170 species and cultivars of aloes on a crisp winter day. This is a special privilege for Lotusland members and their guests only.

Admission is \$25 for members and \$35 for members' guests. Reservations are required and may be made by calling 805.969.9990.

Morning Bird Walk at Lotusland

SATURDAY, JANUARY 30
9:00 TO 11:30 AM

JOIN LOTUSLAND Research Associate Jeff Chemnick and Director Emeritus Steve Timbrook as they lead their annual winter bird walk. The morning tour focuses on seeing as many species as possible. This is a wonderful opportunity for both experienced birders and beginners to discover our feathered friends that spend the winter in Santa Barbara. We will have several pairs of binoculars to lend if you don't have your own. The cost is \$50 for members and \$55 for members' guests. For questions or to make a reservation, please call 805.969.9990.



A group of birders pauses by the orchard to catch a glimpse of an orange-crowned warbler flying toward the fern garden.



The garden shop has unique and creative items for every occasion.

Lotusland's Garden Shop

THE GARDEN SHOP at Lotusland is not only one of the best places to shop for unique hand-crafted gifts, garden decor and jewelry, it is also a valuable source of revenue for the garden.

We are preparing for 2016 with some exciting new inventory items that you will be able to preview online at www.LotuslandShop.org. Your member's discount also applies to all in-store and online purchases. The member discount code is LLMember2016.

Celebrating Madame's Memoir

Always Room at the Top

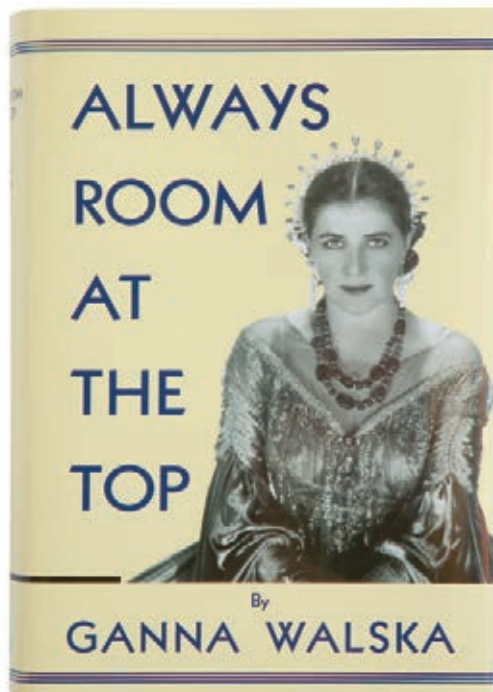
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27 • 1:30 TO 3:30 PM

\$65 MEMBERS • \$75 NON-MEMBERS

WE INVITE YOU to join us for a celebration of the release of the second edition of this most insightful autobiography by an extraordinary woman.

"Dedicated to All those Seeking Their Place in the Sun." These are the opening words to Madame Ganna Walska's autobiography, which was first published in 1943. This is the story of an internationally known personality—a stunning woman with great wit, an opera singer and a patroness of the arts whose activities were always directed toward fostering truth and beauty. Through these pages pass the most famous personages of her time in the fields of music, art, politics, religion, statesmanship and philosophy.

The day's events include a champagne welcome, a musical stroll through



the garden inspired by Ganna Walska's passion for opera and musical performance. The sunken drawing room will feature a lively roundtable discussion of *Always Room at the Top* with numerous experts on Ganna Walska, including Gwen Stauffer, Rose Thomas, Kathy Hulick and Dorothy Shaner. There will be photographs, memorabilia and an opportunity to gain a greater insight into this iconic woman and her distinctive style and personality. A reception will follow in the Pavilion.

We encourage you to read Madame's memoirs, copies of which are on sale in the Garden Shop and on Lotusland's online store, and join in what will be a fascinating discussion of her life and journey before moving to Lotusland. Reservations are required and may be made by calling 805.969.9990.

Lotusland Gratefully Acknowledges Donations

SEPTEMBER, OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER 2015

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in honor of my wife, Heidi Rex
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Continued from page 13

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Continued on page 15

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SEPTEMBER, OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER 2015

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SEPTEMBER, OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER 2015

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Continued from page 14

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*Our Membership Manager, Bambi Leonard, makes every effort to ensure that donor information is correct.
If you find an error or omission, please contact her at 805.969.3767, ext. 120 or bleonard@lotusland.org.*



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Winter 2016 Member Events

MANY LOTUSLAND EVENTS are open to non-members, so please let your friends and neighbors know about the great activities we offer.

Saturday, January 23

Winter Walk

1:00 TO 3:30 PM

See details page 12. Please call 805.969.9990 to register.

Saturday, January 30

Morning Bird Walk at Lotusland

9:00 TO 11:30 AM

See details page 12. Please call 805.969.9990 to register.

Monday, February 8

Annual Meeting

3:00 TO 5:00 PM

All members are invited. Please call 805.969.3767 to register.

Wednesday, February 17

Garden reopens after winter recess.

Saturday, February 27

Celebrating Madame's Memoir

Always Room at the Top

1:30 TO 3:30 PM

See details page 13. Please call 805.969.9990 to register.

Monday, March 21

Education Insights for Docents

9:30 TO 11:00 AM

Topic announced in February. Attendance open to Friend level and above members. Please call 805.969.9990 for reservations.

Tours

Tours are offered at 10:00 AM and 1:30 PM, Wednesday through Saturday from February 17 to November 12. Please call 805.969.9990 for reservations.
