

Ganna
Walska



LOTUSLAND

NEWSLETTER • WINTER 2020

MADAME GANNA WALSKA

Portraits of an Era

PAUL MILLS KEYNOTE LECTURE

Nong Nooch Cycad Workshop



695 Ashley Road
Santa Barbara, California 93108
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CHANGING OF SEASONS

Dear Members and Friends,

In celebration and commemoration of the end of the decade, I am grateful to be a part of Lotusland and I send you all my best wishes for a new year full of joy and good health.



As the Northern Hemisphere transitions to winter, Lotusland, too, is experiencing many exciting changes. Gwen Stauffer, our executive director since 2008, has retired to enjoy new adventures. Gwen led Lotusland with gusto and grew the organization into a community-based, world-renowned cultural asset. Most recently Gwen proudly completed the restoration of our Japanese Garden, our largest capital improvement. The Board thanks Gwen for her contributions and wishes her all the best.

The Board is pleased to announce Rebecca Anderson, the Garden's Director of Philanthropy, as Lotusland's Interim Executive Director while the Board conducts a search for our permanent leader. Rebecca is a respected 20-year nonprofit veteran in Santa Barbara. Because of her extensive experience in nonprofit leadership and her network of collaborators and supporters, she is the right person to help us navigate during this transition.

An executive leadership transition is a time to reflect and to look forward, and to harness change as a great opportunity. This is a fertile time for Lotusland, and our Board and Staff are embracing this next chapter with enthusiasm, energy and optimism.

Our goals this year include:

- Ensuring organizational integrity and alignment
- Engaging in endowment building for sustainability and growth
- Entering a new chapter in volunteer leadership and governance development

To help accomplish our plans, we turn to you...We are actively seeking benevolent benefactors to sustain the Garden with both financial support and advocacy.

We share in our devotion and pride of this unique botanical nirvana. Thank you for joining us on this journey toward excellence so that we all may enjoy, learn from and be inspired by this very remarkable and special garden.

As we embark on the New Year and the beginning of a new era, I would love to hear your thoughts about Lotusland's future and encourage you to deepen your commitment to and participation in the world's most magical garden.

Sincerely,

Lesley Cunningham
Incoming Board President

MISSION

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.

WINTER 2020

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DAN BIFANO

Seasons of Transition



AS I STEP DOWN from my position as President of the Lotusland Board I reflect on the past two years. During my tenure the challenges were great, but the rewards have outshadowed them. Lotusland experienced fire, mudslides and the aftermath of both. We have also celebrated 25 years in operation to the public. Our Board has adopted a New Strategic Plan as well as Best Practices. We have new members on our Board of Trustees and I am excited to hear

their ideas that will help move us forward. I want to thank all the hard working Board members who currently serve. I especially want to commend Belle Hahn, Eileen Rasmussen, Mick Thomas and Geoff Crane, whose energy, ideas and dedication have helped me make the right decision on countless occasions. These four Board members will be retiring from the Board of Trustees after a combined tenure of more than 20 years.

As Lotusland's CEO, Gwen Stauffer retired as of November 8th and I am pleased to report that our Director of Philanthropy, Rebecca Anderson, has taken on the challenge of Interim Executive Director. I hope that our Lotusland family and friends will congratulate her and assist her as she guides staff, volunteers and the Board through the challenges that our search in finding a new Executive Director will bring.

I am excited that Lesley Cunningham will follow me in January 2020 as the new President of the Lotusland Board of Trustees. She has been an important Board member as Vice-President and I have the utmost confidence that she will do an exceptional job of leading the Board.

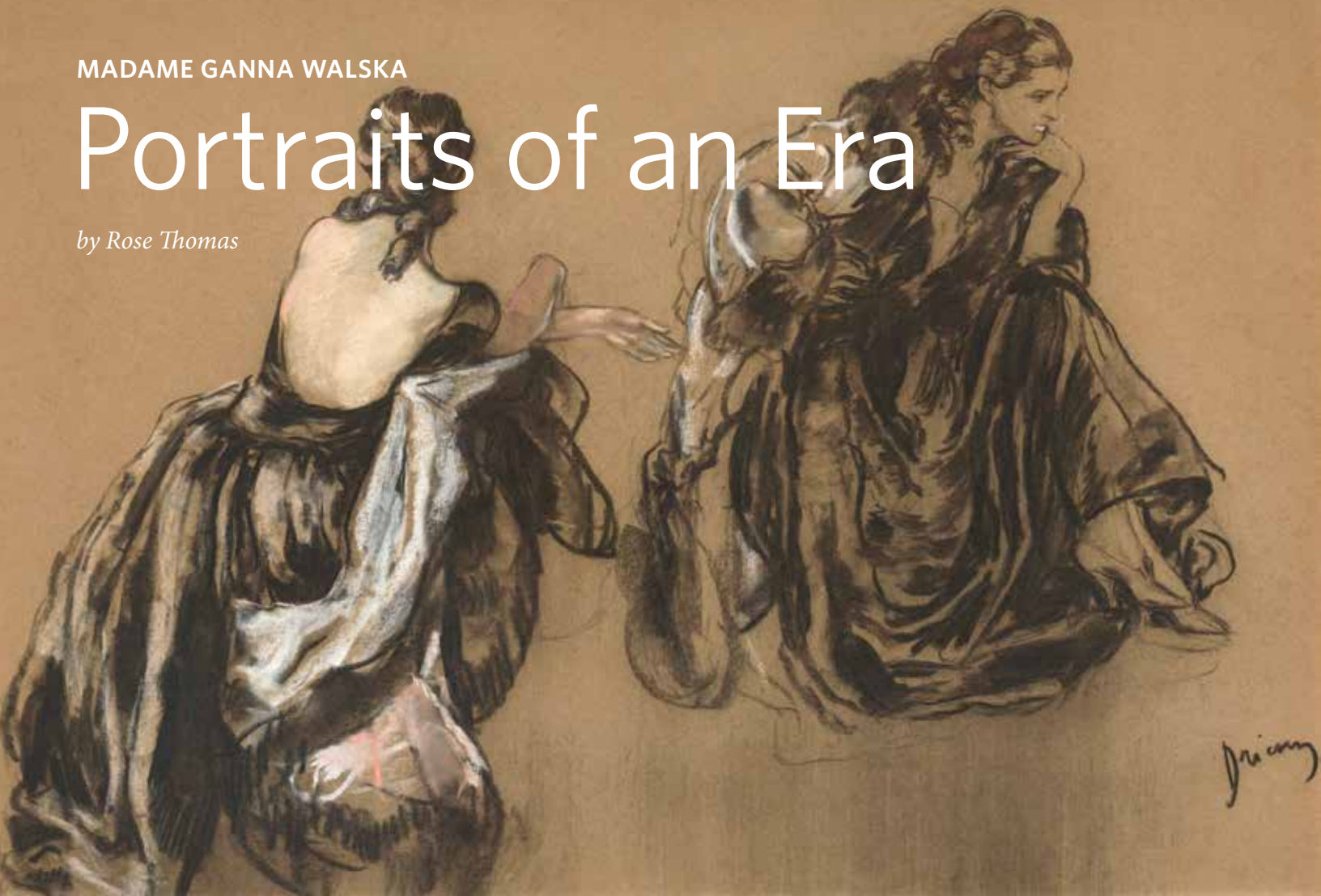
Lastly, I would like to thank all of the wonderful people, donors, friends, staff and volunteers during my term as Board President. You have all been a great source of help, support and encouragement. I could not have succeeded without all of you behind me.

Warm regards,
Dan Bifano
Outgoing Board President

MADAME GANNA WALSKA

Portraits of an Era

by Rose Thomas



“There always has been something about Ganna Walska which has interested people: something which has held their attention; aroused their curiosity; something which makes them prick up their ears when her name is mentioned, or read the item when her name is printed.”

— CHARLES WAGNER, NEW YORK IMPRESARIO, 1928

THE LIFE OF MADAME GANNA WALSKA is the subject of a new book written by her niece, Hania Tallmadge, entitled *Ganna Walska: Portraits of an Era*. In 1947, Hania and her parents, Leon and Marysia Puacz, moved at the invitation of Leon’s older sister, Ganna Walska, to live in a cottage on her Lotusland estate. Along with the author’s recollections, breadth of research, and seldom seen images of Madame Ganna Walska, the book is a loving tribute to her aunt and a glimpse into a bygone era.

In conjunction with this beautiful publication, Lotusland is honored to present a special companion exhibition,

when the Garden opens its 2020 season, also titled *Portraits of an Era*, with original artwork on loan from the author’s private collection and featured in the book. In addition, there will be a selection of garments, costumes, personal articles, and archival material from the collection at Lotusland. Members and guests will have the rare intimate opportunity to view the exhibition in the setting of the Pavilion—Ganna Walska’s preferred residence.

Ganna Walska commissioned her paintings from an international array of artists, most living in Paris or New York at the same time as her residency in

those cities. The artwork featured in the exhibition includes the *Czar’s Portrait*, a “larger than life” painting by Russian artist Victor Shtemberg, done in St. Petersburg when she was the young wife of Baron d’Eingorn. Other portraits displayed are by French artists Jean-Gabriel Domergue and Etienne Drian, known for their portraits of beautiful society women and illustrations for magazines; American artists Elizabeth Cotton and Coles Philips captured Ganna Walska’s beauty in their individual and personal style; and an exceptional portrayal of Madame by her friend, Count Alex Ceslas Rzewuski. In addition to portraits from the past, a posthumous portrait of Ganna Walska

was recently completed by contemporary illustrator David Downton, based on a c. 1926 photograph taken by Madame d'Ora in her Paris Studio.

Several sculpted images of Madame will also be shown. A marble bust by John Waters (whose well known sculpture of Lincoln can be seen in South Park Blocks in Portland, Oregon); a porcelain vase with castings of Ganna Walska's hands by Louise Ochse, and a small bronze bust of a turbaned Ganna Walska by Baron Von Rausch.

Among the artists that were friends and acquaintances of Ganna Walska, the most well known is Romaine de Tirtoff. Known as Erté, he designed costumes for Ganna Walska's operatic roles, as well as drawings for proposed evening gowns. These drawings in gouache on paper were created for Madame and were displayed on the walls of her home in Paris. While the majority of these are now in the permanent collections of the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA) and the Metropolitan Museum of Art, several from Ms. Tallmadge's collection will be on display along with archival correspondence from the artist.

Ganna Walska believed in continually striving to improve herself and her surroundings. Explaining her particular view of fashion in her memoir, she states, "Speaking about clothes, I have always been peculiar about dressing. I have

defended my individualism against the standardized fashion of dressmakers. I was following the canvases of the great masters rather than the four-seasonal, necessarily passing moods of the Parisian couturier. . ." She acquired her clothing from the best couturiers of her day and then had them altered to fit her style and taste.

After Madame's death in 1984, her collection of hats, gowns, and costumes from a lifetime of trendsetting still filled the closets and wardrobes of the house, silent testimony to her unique personality and the grand life style that receded once she began her love affair with Lotusland.

The majority of this collection of garments was donated to LACMA by her niece, Ms. Tallmadge, who generously donated the remainder of Madam Walska's clothes to Lotusland. In the intervening years, and again most recently, LACMA has de-accessioned a number of garments to Lotusland and we are pleased to display a selection of these costumes, gowns, and dresses in the 2020 exhibition.

Madame Walska's social, professional, and benevolent commitments brought her in close contact with musical and artistic luminaries, writers, politicians, actors, actresses, and international royalty. The exhibition includes autographed photographs of some of these notable friends.

Ganna Walska's life was defined by her love of beauty, her pursuit of self-realization, and a dogged determination to leave something of value behind.

Lotusland is grateful to Ms. Tallmadge for her ongoing support and for sharing this insightful portrait of her aunt. We thank her for her kindness in loaning these precious items from her private collection.

The exhibition runs from February 29 to May 9, 2020, and is included with Garden tours.



This book will be available for purchase in the Garden Shop in February.



OPPOSITE: Double portrait of Ganna Walska by Drian, 1920.

TOP: Profile of Ganna Walska wearing a Rzewuski designed headdress, 1926.

BOTTOM: Costume designed for Ganna Walska as Floria in the opera *Tosca*, Erté, c. 1920. ©Seven-arts Ltd/Artists Rights (ARS), New York 2019.

Horticultural Happenings



CRANES RESTORED

THE THREE ELEGANT CRANES that were acquired by Ganna Walska for the Japanese Garden pond were perched on disintegrating legs and in desperate need of repair. During the Japanese Garden renovation, the cranes were removed and carefully restored. Fortunately, a local craftsman was able to complete the repairs. All six bronze legs needed to be recreated. They were crafted with a stainless steel core and a bronze exterior to match the original design. New concrete pads for them to sit on were crafted by Director of Gardens and Facilities, Tyler Diehl and veteran gardener Mike Furner. They were placed with care in their original locations by skilled gardeners Tim Cordero and Junio Milanese. The bodies of the cranes were above the water and did not require any repair work. The cranes are now standing majestically on the south side of the pond near the Torii Gathering. The cranes are available for naming. Inquiries and gifts to support their restoration may be directed to 805.969.3767, ext. 104.

INSET RIGHT: The new four inch water line is sleeved inside a six inch pipe. This photograph was taken prior to installing a 90 degree elbow. Photo: Tyler Diehl

NEW RESERVOIR WATER LINE ENSURES VITALITY IN THE GARDEN



LOTUSLAND'S RESERVOIR RESIDES

on a non-contiguous easement on an adjoining property on the north side of the Garden. There are no records regarding the construction of the reservoir or the connecting water line. Both are believed to be more than one hundred years old. The water line was a very old steel pipe that leaked and

was destined to fail, which would put the entirety of Lotusland's gardens at risk. Replacing the pipe required engineering drawings, a county permit, lane closures, coordination with neighbors and navigating one very large rock. Significant boring was required as well as hand-digging parts of the line. A new four inch HDPE pipe replaces the previous steel pipe. Future updates to the system will include fabricating a new roof for the reservoir to maintain the water quality that flows into the system and upgrading the reservoir itself. Water is the lifeblood of any garden and we are very pleased to have completed this critical component of the replacement project. Expenses for the upgrades totalled over \$100,000 and we are actively seeking financial gifts and grants to offset the burden of this necessary expenditure. — Tyler Diehl

COLLECTIONS NEWS

Paul Mills Presents Keynote Lecture at the 2019 Nong Nooch Cycad Horticulture Workshop

STARTED IN 1954 AS A FRUIT PLANTATION, the 600 acre Nong Nooch Tropical Botanic Garden in Chonburi Province, Thailand, has become a premier botanic garden dedicated to “preservation, research and conservation,” housing one of the most important cycad collections in the world. The garden has an amusement park feel to target a diverse variety of visitors. Within the dazzle, the owner, Kampon Tansacha, has amassed an extraordinary collection of plants and admits to being personally inspired and influenced by a visit to Lotusland for the mass plantings and dramatic display of his collections.

Every three years the Thai garden hosts the Nong Nooch Cycad Horticulture Workshop, focusing on cycad cultivation and propagation, which is increasingly important as more cycads become extinct in the wild and only exist in gardens. In fact, cycads are the most threatened plant group on the planet. With travel costs supported by the funds raised during *Lotusland Celebrates*, it was an honor to present the work we do at Lotusland to the international plant community with the keynote presentation at the conference last October. My presentation provided an overview of the cycad collection at Lotusland including its history, major renovations that have taken place, our sustainable horticulture and curatorial practices, the collection as it is now and I spoke about some of our projects focused on cycad conservation. Other presenters were from Thailand, South Africa, Australia, Europe and the United States with varied topics that focused on such things as effective propagation methods, both vegetative and by seed, the effects of environmental variables on cycads in cultivation, pollen storage techniques, how to successfully move large, mature cycads and many other subjects.

During the conference the days were filled with field trips to some of the impressive Nong Nooch nurseries, which are hundreds of acres in area, along with visiting some plants in habitat and touring the collections at the botanic garden. A short post conference tour afforded us the opportunity to experience some amazing cycads in the wild. Six different cycad species were seen in habitat – *Cycas elephantipes*, *C. siamensis*, *C. petraea*, *C. simplicipinna*, *C. nongnoochiae* and *C. tansachana*. Most plants were found growing on very sharp limestone outcroppings with a host of other plants from wild bananas and gingers to succulent euphorbias and dracaenas.

The 2019 workshop and post conference tour were invaluable learning opportunities and served to build and coordinate future collaborations with international institutions working towards a common goal of protecting cycad species against future extinctions. — *Paul Mills, Curator of the Living Collections*

TOP: An immense plant of *Cycas tansachana* on top of a limestone mountain.

MIDDLE: Nong Nooch Cycad Horticulture Workshop attendees.

BOTTOM: Life size dinosaur statues are placed throughout the garden to entertain guests.



Ganna Walska: A Singer with a Real Purpose in Life

FOR MUCH OF HER LIFE, Madame Ganna Walska felt compelled to express herself through song and was determined to make her mark on the world of music.

During the decades that Madame Ganna Walska devoted to her singing career, she sought out the best vocal coaches on both sides of the Atlantic, followed a strict daily regime of voice lessons, attended as many opera performances and symphony concerts as possible, and studiously

harsh reviews, stating in her memoir *Always Room at the Top* that, "Singing is by all means the most ungrateful expression of Art. Singers must always at all times be well and must give their best each time they appear—they will not be excused if they do not...the interpreters of Divine Music, cannot tear a bad impression out of the memory of our listeners."

Leonard Liebling, an American critic known throughout the musical world

"The Walska voice is of excellent quality. She put sense and style into her interpretations; she shows musical feeling, and her repertoire is confined only to the best examples of the song-literature."

— LEONARD LIEBLING

researched and prepared for her operatic roles before appearing on stage.

The Lotusland archives contain material related to her numerous concert tours in America and Europe, including promotional flyers, programs, tour schedules, correspondence, favorable and not so favorable reviews, and innumerable fan letters.

At times feisty and defensive with the American press, Ganna Walska could also be philosophical about her sometimes

for his impartiality as well as his severity, was quoted in the *New York American*: "The Walska voice is of excellent quality. She put sense and style into her interpretations; she shows musical feeling, and her repertoire is confined only to the best examples of the song-literature."

While living in Paris, Ganna Walska moved in elevated circles, but was never comfortable being labeled a mere socialite. She saw herself as an ambassador of music, which she believed was universal and could bring understanding to a divided world.

Upon her move to California, she kept up with her vocal lessons, supported the Music Academy of the West's programs, and attended opera and symphony concerts in New York, Los Angeles and San Francisco. It does not appear that she sang in public after 1934, though her niece, Hania Tallmadge, recalls her singing in the gardens at Lotusland.

— Rose Thomas

ANNUAL APPEAL

Gifts for the Garden

I founded Hollister House Garden in Connecticut to provide an important space for creativity, education, as a place for communion with nature. While I never had the pleasure to meet Madame Ganna Walska, I believe we share in our values and a vision for our communities to be enriched by our Garden.

We are uniquely fortunate that Ganna Walska Lotusland - with its innovative style and daring feats of horticultural bravado - is right here in Santa Barbara.



Ganna Walska gave her garden to our community to educate, inspire and delight visitors. Today, Lotusland is one of our region's most important cultural and environmental organizations, and is widely known as one of the most beautiful gardens in the world. More than that, a visit to the Garden leaves us feeling tranquil and inspired.

It is our responsibility to build upon her legacy, to

protect and preserve this historic garden and signature style and use it as a platform for the importance of safeguarding nature and promoting life sciences.

Lotusland's capacity to generate earned income from visitation is stifled by the highly restrictive parameters of Santa Barbara County's Conditional Use Permit. Consequently, the Garden is dependent upon the generosity of our Members and donors to raise nearly two-thirds of the annual operating budget.

Your tax-deductible gift makes all of the difference to Lotusland.

Thank you for helping the Garden grow.

Sincerely yours,

George Schoellkopf
Founder, Hollister House Garden
Trustee, Ganna Walska Lotusland

P.S. Make your donation online at Lotusland.org or by calling 805.969.3767, ext. 105 to give by phone. For instructions on gifts of appreciated stock contact your broker and wire to: Federal Tax ID# 23-7082550



FOURTH GRADERS LEARN LIFE SCIENCE Barker Foundation Grant

The Coeta and Donald Barker Foundation has been an ardent supporter of Lotusland's Fourth Grade Outreach Program for many years and we were thrilled to receive a 2019 donation from the foundation. These funds help us to provide fourth grade classrooms across Santa Barbara County free admission and transportation to Lotusland. Our dedicated docents teach these children about botany and the importance of plants in their lives.

The Barker Foundation supports charitable organizations with an emphasis on youth education. Dana Newquist, a Santa Barbara board member of the Foundation, has been a champion of Lotusland's Outreach Program. Dana led an award ceremony on November 27th at the Police Activities League in Santa Barbara. Thank you to Dana and the Barker Foundation for your continued support! Lotusland's Fourth Grade Outreach Program would not be possible without our devoted donors.

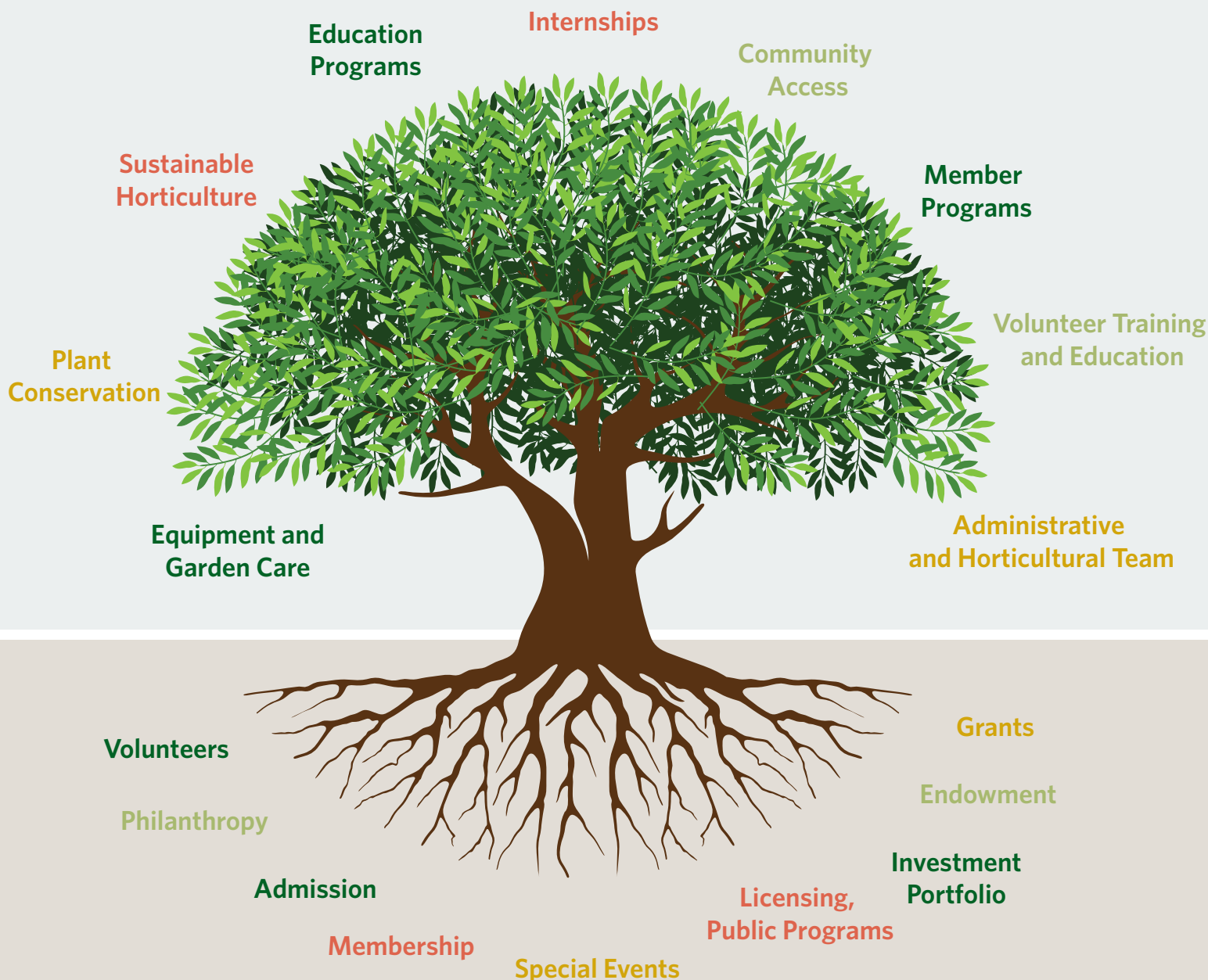
SEEDING THE FUTURE

Growing a Strong Organization

"You can't have the fruits without the roots." — STEVEN COVEY

GANNA WALSKA ENTRUSTED HER MAGNIFICENT GARDEN TO OUR CARE, and Lotusland has become a vital part of the cultural life of our community over the past quarter century. As a tree's branches support and maintain its structure; its roots secure its foundation. Deep roots at Lotusland enable us not only to care for the Garden, but to extend our reach in the community and across the globe.

FULFILLING OUR MISSION



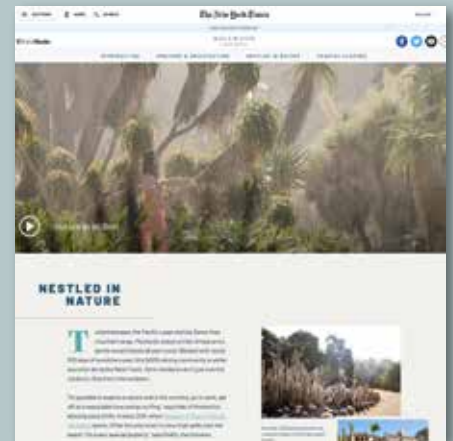
SUPPORTING OUR MISSION

THE GARDEN'S WORLDWIDE ALLURE

Lotusland in the Media

LOTUSLAND IS FORTUNATE to earn a significant amount of attention in the media — locally, nationally and internationally. Ganna Walska's garden is a one-of-a-kind design masterpiece and recognition of its sustainable practices — and benefit events — receive international attention. Lotusland garners interest from major magazines and a network that includes horticulture, fashion, celebrity and lifestyle outlets. Below are some of the 85 media outlets that featured Lotusland last year.

To learn how you can affiliate to show your support of this Botanical Nirvana and raise visibility for your business, please contact 805.969.3767, ext. 104.



C Magazine

VOGUE

CALIFORNIA
HOMES

MARTHA STEWART
Living

GARDENISTA

n p r

NBC

The
New York
Times

BBC

FT FINANCIAL
TIMES

Los Angeles Times

Santa Barbara

AAA

Santa Barbara
Independent

805 LIVING

NOOZHAWK
the freshest news in Santa Barbara

MEMBERSHIP

Gain the Most from Your Visit to Lotusland

Member visits require a Reservation: Whether self-guiding or taking a docent-led tour, you must call 805.969.9990 in advance to make a reservation.

Limited Vehicles: Members are limited to the number of vehicles provided to us at the time the reservation is made. Additional cars must be authorized prior to your visit and will be reflected in your final confirmation.

Self-Guiding Tours: Only Members and their guests are afforded the privilege to self-guide.

→ **Members may visit Wednesday through Saturday at 10:00 AM or 1:30 PM with an advance reservation.**

→ **Arrival and departure times apply to self-guiding Members as well as docent-led tours:**

Tour Times

10 AM Reservations: Gates open for arrivals at 9:30 and close at 10:00 AM. All guests and Members must exit the Garden by 12:00 PM.

1:30 PM Reservations: Gates open for arrivals at 1:00 and close at 1:30 PM. All guests and Members must exit the Garden by 3:30 PM.

New Members are encouraged to take an initial docent-led tour to acquaint themselves with the property and hear the fascinating facts of our history and horticulture.

24 Hour Cancellation: It is important to call at least 24 hours in advance to cancel your self-guiding or docent-led tour. All reservations include valuable space. If you are unable to visit, we are able to offer that space to another visitor.

Bring Family and Friends: Members are encouraged to share the garden. Admission is \$50 for adults, \$25 for children age 3-17, free for children under 3. Members save \$10 on adult guest admissions on Thursdays.

2020 Season: Members are welcome to visit Lotusland from February 19, 2020 to November 14, 2020. Visits and tours are not available from mid-November to mid-February. We are pleased to be able to offer an assortment of ticketed Member events during our winter recess.

Access to Lotusland is strictly controlled by the County of Santa Barbara's Conditional Use Permit (CUP). The CUP limits the number of people and vehicles allowed on property each day and we may not exceed 15,000 people yearly, including Members. These conditions are not Lotusland's by choice.

THANK YOU TO OUR GARDEN LOVER MEMBERS

VISIONARY

Ted Friedel & Coleen Richardson Friedel

STEWARD

Patricia & Larry Durham

Linda & Fred Gluck

Suzanne & Gilbert Mathews

Mercedes Millington & Jack Mithun

Connie & John Percy

Patty & Michael Rosenfeld

Dr. Richard Ross

Lynda Weinman & Bruce Heavin

GUARDIAN

Tania & John Burke

Mr. & Mrs. Jamie Constance

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Mr. Arthur R. Gaudi

Cyndee Howard & Lesley Cunningham

Susan & Robert Lief

Carole MacElhenny

Dennis McGowan & Rudie van Brussel

Lady Leslie Ridley-Tree

Mr. & Mrs. Gary Uwé Rollé

Jeffrey Romano & Stan Shayer

Jay & Talia Roston

Stephen P. Schaible & Daron S. Builta

Mrs. Judy Shea

Mrs. Anita P. Sheen

Jill Taylor & Ray Link

Susanne & Gary Tobey

Mr. Christopher J. Toomey



WELCOME New Staff



TEAGAN SINGER
Visitor Services/Reservations Representative

Teagan was born and raised in the Santa Barbara area and currently lives in Carpinteria. Her first visit to Lotusland was on a Fourth Grade Outreach tour and then again with a

Santa Barbara City College class. She is currently working on a degree in Natural Resources through Oregon State University, specializing in conservation and management with climate change adaptation. Teagan also works for the State of California in the Drinking Water Division. She is an avid surfer and enjoys hiking, camping and traveling. Teagan says she is "excited to have the opportunity to work at a place where I can spend time outside surrounded by an exotic ecosystem, and be a part of an organization that celebrates sustainability, conservation, education, and biodiversity."



MARILY LOPEZ
Development and Administrative Assistant

Marily was born and raised in Los Angeles and moved to Santa Barbara to attend college. She is a recent graduate of the University of California, Santa Barbara, where she majored

in Feminist Studies and minored in Sociocultural Linguistics. Marily is very appreciative of the beautiful surroundings in which she works and feels privileged to meet all of the wonderful people who have a tremendous passion for Lotusland. Her interests include reading novels with social justice themes, vegetable gardening, and gathering with her family. Marily's favorite garden is the Cactus Garden "because it feels like another world!"



JORGE A. MENDIETA
Gardener

Jorge is a native of Argentina and comes to Lotusland with a horticultural background from working in the Santa Barbara area. He studied and worked as a park ranger at Universidad

Nacional de Misiones in Corrientes, Argentina. He later worked at the Ibera Wetlands State Park in Corrientes, 500 miles north of Buenos Aires—one of the largest wetlands in the world. While at Ibera he completed surveys in wetland ecosystems, taught environmental education and worked with numerous biologists assisting with their research. Jorge is thrilled to be at Lotusland and will focus his efforts in the Australian Garden, the Water Stairs and assisting with the Cypress Allée. Jorge's wife convinced him to move back to Santa Barbara, her hometown, three years ago and they are happy to be here.

BRUNO REGINATO RETIRES 40 Years in the Garden

BRUNO GRADUATED FROM SANTA BARBARA HIGH SCHOOL and spent two years traveling the world with the Navy before he began working at Lotusland in 1979. His uncle, Mario Franceschini, was a gardener for Madame Walska since 1970 and recommended Bruno to Charlie Glass, Lotusland's head gardener at the time.



Bruno has made lasting contributions to the Garden in various ways. Over the years he was the go-to groundsman for arborists including Brett Warner, Mark Kyriaco, and Jacob Claassen. He maintained the Great

Lawn and the lower main drive plantings and has worked in every garden at Lotusland. Bruno is known and loved for his sense of humor. He would often assign nicknames, like "Minister of De-Fence" for the volunteer who repaired the perimeter barbed wire. He would find look-alike crew photos and post them on the bulletin board. Most importantly, though, he and veteran gardener Mike Furner were part of the garden crew when Madame Walska was alive. Personal stories and reminiscences from that era by Bruno, Mike Furner, Frank Fujii, Mario Franceschini, Bill Paylen, Ozzie Da Ros, Arthur Gaudi and others who worked with Madame are important to understand what Lotusland was like in the past and to learn what would be acceptable in the future.

Bruno is proud to have contributed to the advancements in sustainable horticulture that have evolved during his time at Lotusland. He has fond memories of Ganna Walska in the Garden and always appreciated her legendary generosity towards the gardeners. He spent time at Lotusland after work splitting wood and became the resident mushroom hunting expert. Bruno could have retired sooner but chose to remain, as his connection to Lotusland runs very deep. Bruno promises his retirement will not be the end of his relationship with the Garden.

Thanks to former Director of Grounds and Facilities Mike Iven for contributing to this story



OUTREACH DOCENTS

Environmental Education Workshop

Ganna Walska penned the educational mission of Lotusland in 1979, exactly ten years after the massive Santa Barbara oil spill that catalyzed national Earth Day. While we do not know whether she had in mind such increasingly complex environmental dilemmas, we know she foresaw the gardens as a haven for connecting people with nature. At Lotusland, we educate students on the wonders of plant biodiversity, with our 3,500+ species, and on the importance of conservation, with our rare and endangered species. Our Fourth Grade Outreach Program reaches more than 2,500 students a year, presenting an opportunity to foster nature connection and stewardship.

In 2020, Lotusland will be bolstering our docents with a series of workshops on the principles of environmental education. These hands-on workshops will explore techniques for connecting children to nature and creating environmental literacy. There will be opportunities for docents to develop and refine their own approaches to working with students and families, bringing research-based best practices and techniques to Lotusland's educational programs and enhancing our capacity to connect people and nature.

The workshops, open to current docents this winter, are led by Education Outreach Coordinator, Nikki Evans, who is certified as a California Naturalist through the University of California, certified in The Fundamentals of Interpretation through the Eppley Institute, and a peer-reviewed author on social and cultural understandings of nature. For more information, contact Nikki Evans, nevans@lotusland.org.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Gillian Connor



WHEN GILLIAN CONNOR first heard about Lotusland's Fourth Grade Outreach Program at a prospective volunteer information meeting, she knew it was the perfect fit for her.

Gillian is originally from the East coast, where she fell in love with plants

and nature. As a resident of Santa Barbara for almost 38 years, she saw Lotusland's Fourth Grade Outreach Program as a wonderful opportunity to give back by helping children connect with nature.

Gillian has been a docent at Lotusland for one and a half years, and in that time she has become a core part of the dedicated Outreach Docent team, leading field trips and classroom presentations. She offers advice to Outreach docents and anyone interested in becoming one: "My advice is to be flexible and patient, as each and every encounter is different. Our students really respond to docents that not only know Lotusland well, but also understand how fourth graders learn and behave. We have a lot of fun in the classroom and the Garden and when they 'pass' their quiz at the end of their tour, it proves how well we do with the program." When she is not working at Lotusland, you can find Gillian gardening, cooking, and enjoying time on the water with her family. We appreciate Gillian, as well as all of our volunteers and docents at Lotusland.

Fourth Grade Outreach is an exciting experiential field trip program that uses the Garden to teach students about botany, conservation, and the importance of plants in all of our lives. **Generous Lotusland benefactors give grants each year that support transportation, docent training, curriculum, snacks and a gift of a succulent for all student visitors. The program teaches students how to be stewards of the natural world.** It brings more than 2,500 students through Lotusland each year. To learn more about our Outreach volunteer opportunities, contact Education Outreach Coordinator Nikki Evans at nevans@lotusland.org.

LOTUSLAND GARDEN SHOP: INSPIRED BY THE JAPANESE GARDEN

Handcrafted Finds by Artisans in Southern California

There are many unique items handcrafted by local artists available in Lotusland's Garden Shop and online at lotuslandshop.org. Members save 10% on all purchases.

TOP: A nail head teapot features a pattern reminiscent of drops on the surface of water. Matte red finish on the outside with black enamel on the inside. Includes removable stainless steel mesh infuser for brewing pure leaf teas. Not intended for use on stovetop. 5.25" diameter, 3.25" height. 13 oz. capacity \$45.00

BOTTOM RIGHT: Lotus scented green pure leaf tea. 3.5 oz. \$12.00

BOTTOM LEFT: *Wabi Sabi* book. Originating in Japan, the wabi-sabi perspective resonates in voices from across cultures and throughout the ages. The gems of wisdom collected in this engaging little book inspire us to discover the humble beauty in our daily lives. 4.25" x 4.25" \$8.95



SELECTED WORKS FOR SALE

Japanese Garden Mural Benefit Fundraiser

The exquisite artistry of Colette Cosentino that graced the perimeter of Lotusland's Japanese Garden during its renovation is now available for purchase. Just 25 unique panels are being sold depicting evocative and beautiful dreamscapes, ranging in size on stretched canvas to selections of large wall compositions up to twelve feet wide. To view the murals go to Lotusland.org/murals. To purchase by private appointment, please call 805.969.3767, ext. 125. Don't miss this opportunity to own a one of a kind Japanese Garden inspired painting. One hundred percent of proceeds benefit Lotusland.

UPCOMING EVENTS



Saturday, January 25 • 9:00 to 11:30 AM **Morning Bird Walk at Lotusland**

JOIN LOTUSLAND INSIDERS and experienced birders, Lotusland Research Associate Jeff Chemnick and Director Emeritus Steve Timbrook, for our annual Morning Bird Walk. This is an opportunity for both experienced birders and beginners to discover many species of our feathered friends that spend the winter in Santa Barbara. Limited binoculars available if you don't have your own. Price is \$50/Members and \$70/Members' guests. Space is limited. For questions or reservations, please call 805.969.9990.

Saturday, February 15 • 3:00 to 5:00 PM **Valentine's Garden Sip and Stroll**

IT IS NO WONDER that Lotusland is on everyone's list of the most romantic places in Santa Barbara. Surprise your special someone with a champagne garden stroll in the early evening light and share a magical moment at Lotusland. This is a special privilege for Lotusland Members and their guests only. Price is \$40/Members and \$60/Members' guests. Space is limited. Please call 805.969.9990 for questions or reservations.



Wednesday, February 19 **Lotusland Opens for the Season**

THE GARDEN REOPENS FOR PUBLIC TOURS after our winter recess. We look forward to welcoming everyone back to Lotusland with the magic of the low winter light. Blooms of the season are quite remarkable in the Aloe Garden and enjoy the fascinating display of cones in the Cycad Garden. Tours are at 10 AM and 1:30 PM. Members may self-guide but reservations are required for all visits; please call 805.969.9990.

February 29 to May 9 **Madame Ganna Walska: Portraits of an Era Exhibition**

THE REMARKABLE LIFE of Madame Ganna Walska is the subject of a new book written by her niece; Hania Tallmadge, entitled *Ganna Walska: Portraits of an Era*. In conjunction with this beautiful and important publication, Lotusland is pleased to offer visitors a special exhibition of original portraits, drawings, garments and costumes, in addition to seldom seen photographs associated with Ganna Walska's unique life story and featured in her niece's book. Members and guests will have the rare opportunity to view the exhibit in the setting of the Pavilion, Ganna Walska's preferred residence. This exhibition offers a visual glimpse into a life like a Hollywood movie through personal images, garments and correspondence from our archives that bespeak Madame's creative style and depth of character. Included with Garden Tours.



LOTUSLAND GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES DONATIONS

September, October and November 2019

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NEW MEMBERS

Jill Taylor & Ray Link

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FOURTH GRADE OUTREACH

The Coeta and Donald Parker Foundation

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NEW LOTUSLAND MEMBERS

**We welcome new Members who joined in September,
October and November 2019**

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CULTIVATOR

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Michael Loftis & Erik Nickel
Forbes H. Perkins & Miri Mara

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Ana & Robert Cook
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Ingrid & Geoffrey Harding
Dorian & Peter Hirth
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Susan Kushner & Ian Cohen
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Elliot Lawler
Deborah & Marty Lynch
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Mary & Steve Werts

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 Elizabeth & Jack Bunce
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 John Cort & Rebecca Barbetti
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September, October and November 2019

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Winter 2020 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 25

Morning Bird Walk at Lotusland

9:00 to 11:30 AM
See page 16

Saturday, February 15

Garden Sip and Stroll

3:00 to 5:00 PM
See page 16

Wednesday, February 19

Lotusland Opens for the Season

See page 16

February 29 to May 9

Pavilion Exhibition Madame Ganna Walska: Portraits of an Era

See page 16

Tuesday, March 10

Focus Tour: Tantalizing Topiaries with Tyler Diehl

3:00 to 5:00 PM

An exclusive free benefit for *Garden Lover* level Members. Call Member Services 805.969.3767 for reservations.

Arrival Times for Tours

Including self-guiding Members

AM Visit

Gate opens at 9:30
and closes at 10:00 AM.

PM Visit

Gate opens at 1:00
and closes at 1:30 PM.

Call 805.969.9990 for reservations