



GARDEN VIEWS

February 2016

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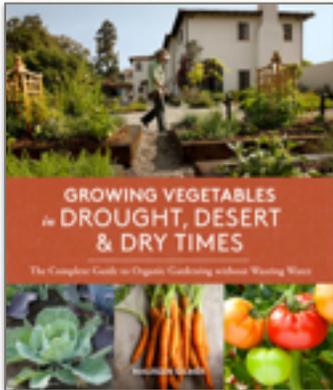
A Lesson in Beginnings and Endings

By Khara Dizmon

When I first heard the story of Lolita Aaron, it conjured up images of my small, two-acre farm. The birthday parties we'd held in the garden, the wedding, the baby showers, and the warm evenings dining at the 12-seat picnic table—all the events and relationships that have happened in my garden flashed in my head. I tried to touch the visions, to sort and file them away while they were streaming by. Because Lolita's story may one day be my story, or it may already be your story.

"My husband and I were moving in seven weeks, and it felt as if my life were ending," recalls Lolita of her suburban garden (pictured above), which had been her *raison d'être* for 28 years. She had spent many years looking out her kitchen window at an exuberant English styled garden full of years of living, loving, and hard work. Now on the verge of a life change, it beckoned to her as she gazed at its loveliness with both appreciation and sadness.

"Intellectually, I was aware we had 'lucked out,'" admits Lolita.



Book Review

Growing Vegetables in Drought, Desert & Dry Times

Author: Maureen Gilmer

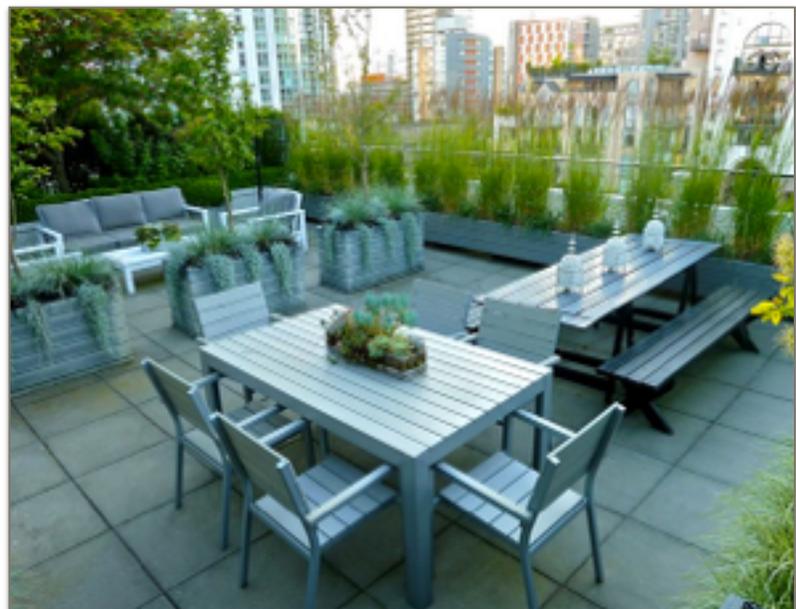
“To grow food without the guilt of using more water than you need to, it’s important to open your mind to a new way of growing,” says Gilmer. This timely book focuses on four different low-water conditions in the western United States, and offers the best of ancient wisdom and the newest innovations in conservation. Particularly useful are the varietal recommendations and seasonal crop guide that help you obtain generous harvests with limited irrigation.

*\$17.54 on [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)
Paperback, 207 pages*

“That we had sold the house at a good price and that we were moving to a lovely area, fun and vibrant, and funky. We would have a roof terrace, and be on one level and all that practical stuff.” But leaving a home and garden that you’ve tended for so long comes with inevitable sorrow. “We had loved the house; we had loved the garden and taken care of it. We had shared it with visitors and showed it off,” muses Lolita. “Often I cursed it, especially in November when every deciduous tree shed its leaves. But I loved it again in winter with its glistening frosty appearance, and again, when the first limey green shoots of the maples began unfurling their foliage. It was a love affair that went on for years and years.”

But such a “reason for living” doesn’t end when you move, at least not for a gardener. It just starts over. Flash forward to the present, on the top floor of a six-story condominium in Yaletown, a community in downtown Vancouver, British Columbia. Here, Lolita, mother of four children and grandmother of four grandchildren, has transformed herself into a city gardener. Her rooftop landscape is a sight to behold, with its contemporary restraint in color and limited plant palette (pictured below). The antithesis to her suburban garden, Lolita’s contemplative inklings have prevailed in a sophisticated urban space. “I found there is hope,” Lolita says, “to recreate a green space. There is renewal and the regenerating of oneself even when of advanced years.”

The toils and celebrations in our gardens can eventually turn to farewells, when we must move to a different dwelling—one that’s more “manageable” as they say. (Though “manageable” can have different meanings to passionate gardeners. My father, an avid gardener, said



That's a Good Question!



Question: I have an orange tree that has the best tasting fruit, but now its leaves are all curly and I think it might also have that disease that everyone is talking about.

Answer: It is most likely that your tree has been infested by citrus leafminer, which is common in Riverside County. Citrus leafminer (CLM) is a tiny moth that lays its eggs on the young tender flush growth of citrus trees. If you look closely at the curly leaves on your tree, you will see thin meandering trail lines. These "mines" are where the CLM larvae have been traveling and eating. The maturing larvae roll the edge of the leaf around themselves which causes the curly, distorted appearance. This damage does not affect the growth or fruit bearing of mature trees, so chemical treatment is not recommended. Insecticides available for backyard trees are not very effective and may kill natural enemies. It is advised that you limit practices that encourage flush growth, such as pruning and over-fertilization.

(Continued on page 4)

years ago, "I'm going to build a bigger garden, now that I'm getting older." Seemingly an oxymoron, but not to a gardener.) Says Lolita, "My suburban garden was a chapter of my life. It was a garden my children grew and delighted in. It was a garden where gardening wasn't always what was happening. It was a place for celebrations, wedding parties, bar mitzvahs, breakfasts, and discussions both good and difficult. It was a place where farewells happened as children left home. Gardening has taught me the lesson of beginnings and endings, and of cycles and of renewal. It isn't about the plants. It's about the things that have happened in the garden."

They say if you want to know where you're headed, ask a person who's been there. As I listened to Lolita's story, I recognized the same life chapter she was closing was just unfolding for me. Suddenly, in my mid-thirties, I was reminded that *I could decide the sort of story I would have.* Life's milestones seem to occur inexorably; as one passes, another quickly approaches. How will I celebrate them? How will I design my garden—the setting for my most precious memories?

"We're reminded that as we age, the moments in our garden become treasured memories."

"Time happens while we're not looking," advises Lolita. "Hold onto the moments. Grow with your garden organically. Take risks with it, plant what touches your soul even if it's just so that it delights people. It doesn't matter if it doesn't work. And then don't despair if you have to leave the garden. If you are someone who rejoices in nature and beauty, a garden, no matter size or place, is transcendent and uplifting."

Now I endeavor to be more mindful of my time in the garden and my surroundings. Slower to walk through the trees and savor how the setting sun casts its orange glow on the fences and flowers. I'm more diligent at photographing and cataloging birthday parties and dinners. Because my story—and your story—are being written now.

To see more images of Lolita's garden, visit www.gardendesign.com where her story was first shared. 

Kimberly Crest Mansion & Gardens Tour

By Sheila James

On Sunday December 6th, twenty plus Master Gardeners and guests toured Kimberly Crest Mansion and Gardens in Redlands. It was a beautiful clear day as can be seen in the accompanying photos taken by Christine Lampe. The estate rests on 6.13 acres adjacent to Prospect Park. The terraced grounds include curving stairways, 3 acres of citrus groves (the crop is harvested, packed, and marketed by a citrus cooperative), an Italian garden, rose garden, and a carriage house (that is now the visitor's center). Fountains and cascading water add additional charm and beauty to the grounds. You can look cross the vast lawn and trees across to the San Bernardino Valley, with nothing but a few 100 year old palm trees to interrupt your view. An added bonus was that the mansion had just been decked out for Christmas.

The mansion was built in the late 1800's, when many from the Midwest and East coast came west for the milder winters. The Kimberlys (Mr Kimberly was founder and President of Kimberly-Clark paper company) were the second owners of the mansion and decided to make it their full time residence. Many improvements and upgrades were made throughout the years and eventually the estate was given to the people of Redlands in its entirety. The mansion and grounds are open Thursday, Friday and Sundays 1-4pm. They are a pleasure to visit. It is interesting to hear the history of not only the mansion and gardens, but of the area as well—even its connection to Hollywood (Carol Lombard was a cousin who visited there frequently as a child).

The mansion can be viewed online at: www.kimberlycrest.org. 



The Language of Roses

From the American Rose Society

www.rose.org

Roses are one of the oldest of flowers and with their age come a long history of meaning. “The Language of Roses” is really a subset of the Language of Flowers. The idea of flowers conveying different meanings originated in Persian harems in the 15th century. During the 19th century Victorian period, this floral code became very popular and people would send messages in bouquets to each other. Since each flower, color, and number had a specific meaning, conversations between lovers could take place without a single word being used. Roses were and continue to be the perfect gift to convey your emotions.



Here are several meanings you may not have heard of before:

- Rosebuds denote youth and beauty.
- The number of roses sent has several meanings. Single roses stand for simplicity and in full bloom mean “I love you” or “I love you still”.
 - A bouquet of roses in full bloom is an expression of gratitude.
 - Two roses together on a single stem indicate engagement or upcoming marriage.
 - A rose in full bloom placed over two buds creates a combination signifying secrecy.
- Hybrid tea roses mean “I’ll remember you always”.
- Twelve roses indicate gratitude. Twenty-five roses indicates congratulations. Fifty roses mean unconditional love.



More than Roses...

Ideas for romantic bouquets



- Does your Valentine have a February birthday? Send a mixed flower bouquet that includes violets, the birth flower for February.
- Store-bought roses lacking that sweet heirloom fragrance? Consider asking your florist to mix fragrant freesias, scented stock, or oriental lilies in with your rose bouquet.
- Chocolates and roses are a Valentine’s day classic. This year consider giving a chocolate scented orchid for lasting blooms and sweet fragrance.

What to Do with All Those Lemons!

You've seen them before...the heavy branches of a lemon tree laden with ripe, delicious fruit. If you can't bear to see another lemon drop in waste, here's a simple canning solution to preserve your lemons.

Preserved Meyer Lemons

- 2 pounds fresh, unblemished lemons
- 9 tablespoons kosher salt
- extra lemon juice as needed

Wipe the lemons with damp paper towels and dry. Cut into quarters lengthwise in such a way to leave them attached at the bottom. Remove seeds. Rub the lemons with most of the salt, inside and out, closing them up again so they look whole. Put a little salt at the bottom of a 1 quart ceramic or glass jar and start filling with the salted lemons, pushing down slightly with the second layer. Add enough juice to cover the lemons. Screw a non-corrosive lid on jar. Keep at room temperature for 21 days, shaking the jar at least once a day. After this time, you can store in refrigerator or shelf and they will keep for several months.



RECIPE

Tuna Penne with Preserved Lemon

- 1 pound penne pasta
 - 1/2 cup olive oil
 - 1 tablespoon lemon zest, in thin strips
 - 1 bay leaf
 - 1/2 teaspoon chili flakes (optional)
 - 1/2 teaspoon black pepper (optional)
 - 2 garlic cloves, slivered
 - 1/4 teaspoon fennel seeds
 - 1/4 cup toasted pine nuts
 - 2 tablespoons capers, coarsely chopped
 - 1 tablespoon preserved lemon, rinsed and chopped
 - 12 ounces olive oil-packed tuna (slightly more or less is fine)
1. Set a large pot of salted water to boil.
 2. In a small skillet, gently warm the olive oil with the lemon zest, bay leaf, chili flakes and black pepper (if using), garlic, and fennel seeds. Cook for about 15 minutes over very low heat to let the flavors infuse the oil. Then add the canned tuna, pine nuts, capers and preserved lemon. Gently nudge apart the tuna and let it warm up but not cook.
 3. Meanwhile, once the water boils, cook the pasta until *al dente*. Drain well and toss in a serving bowl with the tuna mixture.
- Serves 6.

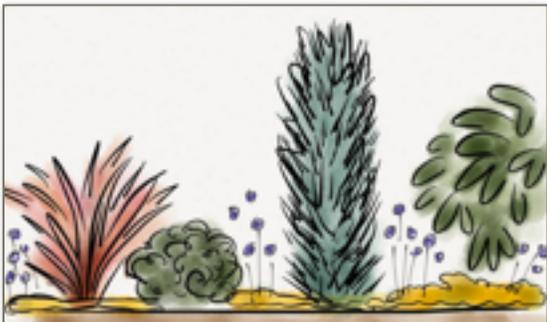
GrowLab

Corona Tools donates nearly \$1,800 worth of tools to the Grow Lab

It was a December to remember at the Grow Lab with a generous gift of shovels, loppers, rakes, smoothers, hoes, weeding tools, spades, wheelbarrows and more. "Corona Tools donated almost \$1,800 worth of tools to us," says Grow Lab co-coordinator Debra Corbin-Euston. "They asked for a "wish list" of tools we wanted and I gave it to them but never for a minute thought we would get everything on the list. Well, we did! They gave us EVERYTHING on the wish list! We now have a really wonderful and ample supply of tools for the Grow Lab - and they are Corona Tools. This was an awesome happening and we are very grateful." 🌸



Pictured: Cindy Beck, Tom Miller, Chris Sabbarese from Corona Tools, and Lucy Heyming at Grow Lab.



Plant Combo Recipe:

Focusing on Plant Shape and Foliage Color

At first there are many possible plants that may work for a given plant combo, then each successive plant selected narrows the field of potential partners. The trick is to start somewhere.

Anywhere. Choose your first plant, your second choice will be limited by the first, the third limited by the second and the first, and so on. The result is an increasingly narrow scope as you build out your composition. Read more at www.gardengo.com.



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Stay up-to-date with the Riverside County Master Gardeners Facebook page. Updated with current news and information about gardening, plants, pests, and more. You'll find links to new research, interesting plants, advice about what's growing now, water-saving tips, and much, much more. Find our Facebook page link from our website and like us today!

<http://ucanr.edu/sites/RiversideMG/>

Notes from the Chair

By Cathy Konyn

Welcome everyone to 2016! Each new year brings changes, and we certainly have had some changes to the roster of the Advisory Board and Committee Coordinators. Deborah Lewis (AB Secretary), Pauline Pedigo (Phone Squad Coordinator), Donna King (Newsletter Editor), and Sandi Norton (Speakers' Bureau Coordinator) have stepped down from their positions. I want to thank them for all of their contributions to the program. Pauline will continue to work the helpline on Tuesday, and I am sure we will be seeing Deborah and Sandi at Grow Lab and other events. Donna King has moved to Sacramento and we wish her well in her new home.

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce the Master Gardeners who have so selflessly volunteered to manage these key committees.

Our new Advisory Board Recording Secretary, Jean Texera is a graduate of the Riverside Class of 2015. She grew up gardening with her grandma and mom in an orange grove in the Highgrove area north of Riverside and still lives on this property with her husband, sister, three dogs, 11 different citrus trees, multiple raised beds and a very small patch of "functional" turf. She has gardened in California, Massachusetts, Chile, and Peru, and has been retired from the County of San Bernardino Department of Children's Services for two years.

Our new Phone Squad coordinator, Nanci Nelson, has been volunteering on the helpline since she was appointed as a Master Gardener in 2008. She says that she has loved gardening since she was little girl and she would follow her father around their garden, learning how to plant and prune and harvest. Now she enjoys being able to interact with the public and help them solve their gardening problems.

Thurman Howard took over as Speakers' Bureau Coordinator in October. Thurman was born and raised in Hawaii, but now lives in Cherry Valley. He is a member of the 2015 Desert class and is an active volunteer in both the Desert and Riverside areas.

Beginning with this edition, Khara Dizmon takes over as Newsletter Editor. Khara has a background in publishing, and was appointed a Master Gardener in 2015. She lives in Riverside with her husband and two young children. She's an avid horseback rider and spends majority of her time outdoors enjoying the experiences of living on a small two-acre farm.

I hope that all of you will join me in welcoming and supporting Jean, Nanci, Thurman, and Khara in their new roles. Together to we can continue enhance our program, our community outreach, and our projects. 🌸



The love of gardening is a seed once sown that never dies.

-Gertrude Jekyll

All Call for MG Help at Grow Lab in February

A lot of help is needed at the Grow Lab in February for spring plantings and preparation for plant sales. There may also be working and planting in the Three Sisters Area. For upcoming sales, more than 165 varieties of seeds are being planted. Come enjoy a nice Saturday morning this month, and did we mention...there is awesome free food for all who lend a hand! For more information, check VMS. 🌸

Upcoming Grow Lab Work Days

February 06, 13, and 27, 2016

9:00 AM -to- 12:30 PM



Grow Lab co-coordinators Sue Hill, Debra Corbin-Euston, Murray Euston, and advisor Marco Baldi. Not pictured is Grow Lab consultant Lucy Heyming.



Trainees Britney Judge, Hannah Johnson, and Isabel Hernandez get hands-on experience planting seeds at Grow Lab.



February Birthdays

Ann Platzer

Cathy Liss

Karen Brandtman

Roe Millsap

Belvia Bailey

David Brandtman

Lisa Lemoine

Sophia Dean

Brian Kniss

Fortino Morales

Maury Corbett

Sue Hill

Catherine Sims

Kyle Selby

Murray Euston

Joan Breeding Ledbetter

Desert Happenings

Living Desert

February 01, 08, 15, 22, and 29, 2016

8:45 AM -to- 12:00 PM

Work at the Living Desert learning propagation of native plants and other activities and cultural requirements related to desert plants.

Moorten Botanical Gardens

February 02, 09, 16, and 23, 2016

9:00 AM -to- 12:00 PM

Learn propagation techniques related to desert plants and learn cultural requirements of desert plants.

Growing Grapevines in the Backyard by Carmen Gispert

February 18, 2016

9:00 AM -to- 12:30 PM

Lecture session on vine development; site selection, varieties, trellis systems, training, and pruning and visit to the UC Coachella Valley Research Station vineyard.

Speakers Bureau Workshop

February 20, 2016

9:00 AM -to- 12:00 PM

This is a 3 hour workshop which will be counted toward your Speakers Bureau Requirement hours.

Not-to-Miss Upcoming Events

Grow Lab Spring Planting

February 06, 13, and 27, 2016

9:00 AM -to- 12:30 PM

Plant, transplant, labeling, inventory, gardening in preparation for spring sales.

WMWD Workshop - Converting Sprinkler Zones into Drip Irrigation

Open to the public.

February 13, 2016

11:00 AM -to- 12:00 PM

Learn how to change your system over to a better method of watering without digging trenches or great expense.

WMWD

Docent Day

Open to the public.

February 13, 2016

9:30 AM -to- 2:30 PM

(two shifts)

Greet garden guests, answer questions regarding garden plants at the MG info table, help with setup and any assistance needed for workshop speaker.

Citrus Experimental Station Tour

February 18, 2016

10 AM -to- 11:30 PM

Guided tour and citrus tasting led by Dr. Kahn. A must-see for MGs!

Farmer's Markets

Temecula Farmers Market

1st & 3rd Wednesday

8:30 AM -to- 1:00 PM

Location: Temecula Promenade Mall (near JC Penneys. Winchester/Inez streets.

Palm Springs Farmers Market

Every Saturday

7:30 AM -to- 12:00 PM

Location: 2300 E. Baristo Rd.

Hemet Farmers Market

1st & 3rd Saturday

9:00 AM -to- 2:00 PM

Location: Behind the Hemet Public Library. Latham Ave and State St.

Palm Desert Farmers Market

2nd & 4th Wednesday

7:30 AM -to- 12 PM

Chamber of Commerce parking lot, 72-559 HWY 111.

La Quinta Farmers Market

2nd & 4th Sunday

7:30 AM -to- 12:30 PM

Location: La Quinta

Riverside Certified Farmers Market

2nd Friday

7:30 AM -to- 12:30 AM

(two shifts)

Location: Sears Parking Lot, 5261 Arlington Ave.

Have an idea for the next newsletter?

Email Khara at: dizmonk@yahoo.com

Tell us about a recent trip, a favorite recipe, a garden success, an event you attended...we'd love to hear! Send a picture of fellow Master Gardeners serving our community. We'd love to share it!