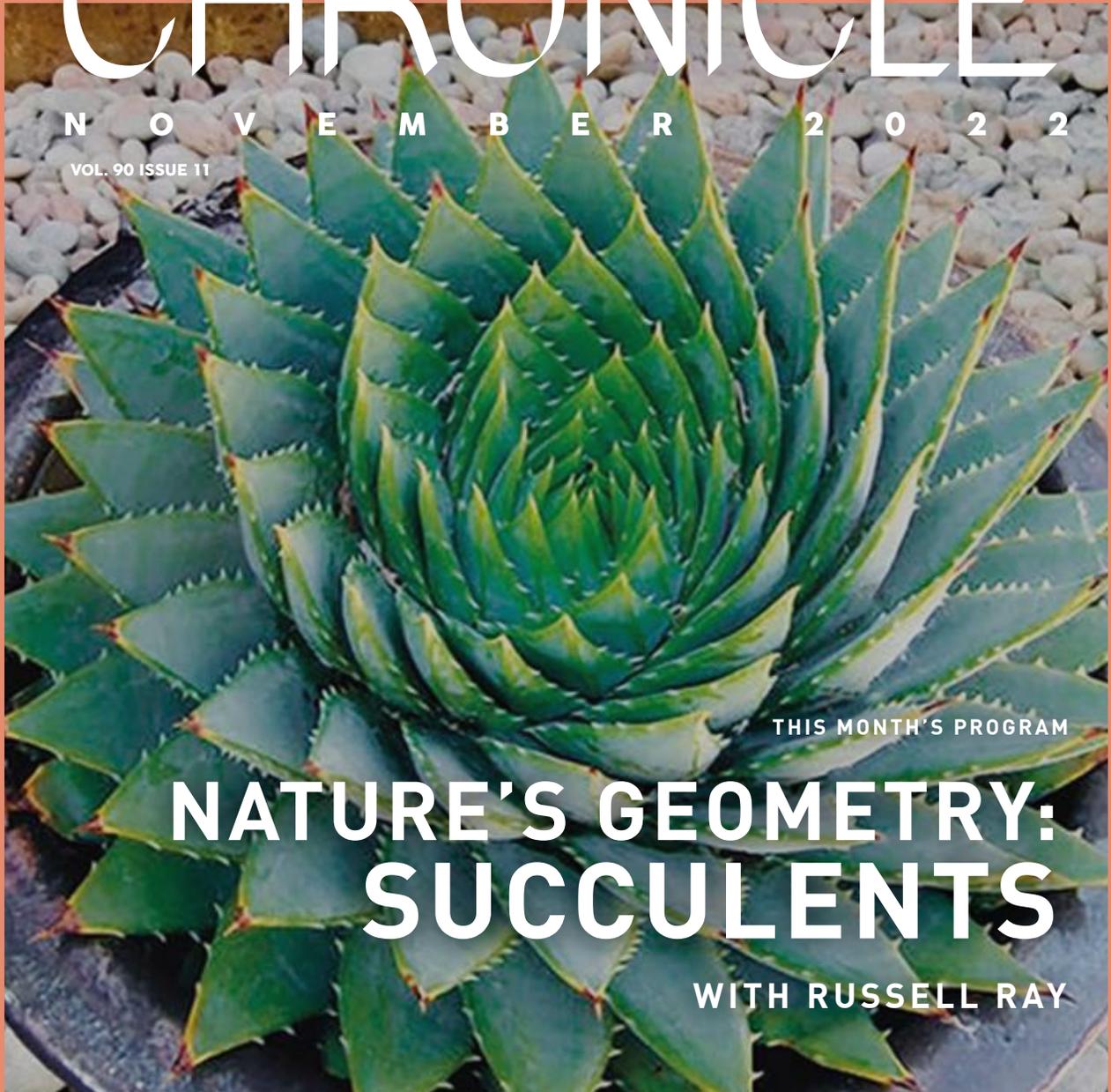


C A C T U S
CHRONICLE

N O V E M B E R 2 0 2 2

VOL. 90 ISSUE 11



THIS MONTH'S PROGRAM

NATURE'S GEOMETRY:
SUCCULENTS

WITH RUSSELL RAY

REMINDER !

THE NOVEMBER MEETING WILL BE HELD BOTH IN-PERSON
AND ON ZOOM AT A ONE GENERATION—VAN NUYS (WHERE WE HOLD OUR SALES)

MEETING START TIME: 7PM, HOST WILL OPEN ROOM AT 6:15PM

ONE GENERATION VAN NUYS: 17400 VICTORY BLVD., VAN NUYS 91406

NOVEMBER MEETING VENUE CHANGE

Only two things are guaranteed in life – death and taxes.
Right? Wrong!!! Change is inevitable, also.

Now that we have gotten settled into our monthly in-person meeting at ONEGeneration Reseda, they have decided that the month of November would be a good time to renovate the multi-purpose room where we meet. So, we cannot hold our November meeting there.

**So, pack your bags – we will be meeting at ONEGeneration
– Van Nuys on November 3.**

The Van Nuys facility is smaller which means our activities will be limited:
Plant of the Month will be held as usual. There isn't enough room to accommodate vendors, freebie plant table, and raffle. But the show will go on as usual. We will have our elections followed by our speaker program.

**The address is
17400 Victory Blvd., Van Nuys 91406
(Where we hold our sales.)**

For traffic safety reasons, I recommend that you approach from the west. White Oak is the closest street to the west. Use the west driveway to park in the lot closest to the buildings. Someone will be near the parking lot to direct you to the building door.

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, feel free to contact me.

See you soon.

B O A R D OF DIRECTORS

2 0 2 2

LACSS MISSION STATEMENT

The Los Angeles Cactus and Succulent Society (LACSS) cultivates the study & enjoyment of cacti & succulent plants through educational programs & activities that promote the hobby within a community of fellow enthusiasts & among the greater public.

PRESIDENT

Joyce Schumann

PAST PRESIDENT

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2ND VP, PLANT OF THE MONTH

Manny Rivera

3RD VP, SPECIAL EVENTS

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Jim Esterle

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Kimberly Gomez-Tong
newsletter@lacactus.com

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WEBMISTRESS

Nancy Neymark

CSSA LIAISON

Roxie Esterle

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Kimberly Gomez-Tong

INTER-CITY REPRESENTATIVES

Manny Rivera
with John Van Unen + Kimberly Gomez-Tong

MONTHLY DRAWING

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PLANT PROCUREMENT

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HISTORIAN

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AWARDS DINNER CHAIR

Vacant

LIBRARIAN

Susan Phillips

POM PLANT DESCRIPTIONS

Kyle Williams

ZOOM MANAGEMENT

Kimberly Gomez-Tong

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COVID COMPLIANCE OFFICER

Emily Akers

FROM THE M E S S A G E PRESIDENT

Hi, everybody!

And a belated Happy Halloween. In the past we would have 200+ kids coming to our home. Now, not so much. This year we got to volunteer in a "Trunk or Treat" event. Lots of fun. Kids were great. Costumes reflected characters that we weren't familiar with. Oh well...

By now, winter growers should be leafing out. They need a bit of fertilizer and water. If you don't know which plants are winter growers, you will find the list on our website lacactus.com – then click on the Advice button. The summer growers are now going into dormancy. This is determined by the amount of light each day, not temperature. No fertilizer for them!

The biggest news is the relocation of our November 3 meeting. This was announced by a few email blasts and will be repeated again in this newsletter. Unfortunately, the venue will not be able to accommodate our vendors, raffle, or library. However, if you have books to return, you may bring them to this meeting.

Our speaker, Russell Ray, will be bringing his new book to sell and maybe some plants. We are looking forward to seeing his program!

Another issue related to the temporary venue - our audio person (John V.) will not be able to attend this meeting. That leaves the audio, visual, microphone, camera, etc. set up to the amateurs. We did OK the last time (missing only the audio, or maybe it was the visual-not clear on that) and will try our best again. Kimberly will blast the log in info a couple days ahead. We will try our best, please bear with us.

Originally, we scheduled an Educational workshop for November 5 to be held at the Sepulveda Garden Center. Someone decided that the venue would make a perfect voting venue from November 1–14. So, that got cancelled. We plan to reschedule this workshop early next year.

At our last Board meeting we agreed not to hold a December monthly meeting. Instead, we will hold our Annual Awards Dinner at the Sepulveda Garden Center on Saturday, December 10. Set up will begin at 2pm. There will be more details to be announced later. We will acknowledge the Plant of the Month winners for 2023, plus a few other entertaining events.

We need good attendance at this meeting to validate the election slate for 2023 so please plan to join us at our new temporary digs. There will be more details regarding the Awards Dinner announced at the meeting. So, until then stay safe and stay healthy.

See ya soon.

Joyce



An ofrenda adorned with Aloe and Agave
Hollywood Forever Cemetery
Photo credit: Kimberly Gomez-Tong

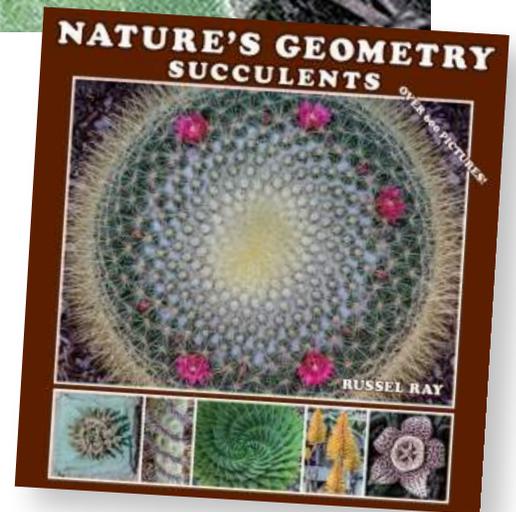
S U C C U L E N T S

NATURE'S GEOMETRY

W I T H R U S S E L L R A Y



Russel uses the Fibonacci sequence of numbers to look at the shape of plants, the number of plant ribs, the number of spines in areoles, golden angles, phyllotaxis (the divergence angle), golden triangles, Fibonacci triangles, golden squares, golden rectangles, circles, fractals, and, most fascinating to him, golden spirals. He brings a selection of live succulents showing nature's geometry and will have copies for sale of his book, "Nature's Geometry: Succulents" a] soft-cover book with over 600 pictures in 174 pages, discounted to \$25 at the meeting.





Russel is from Kingsville, Texas, where he was born and raised by his paternal grandmother, and has lived in the San Diego area since April 1993. He has been self-employed his entire life, mostly as a "serial entrepreneur" specializing in getting companies through startup and growth phases. He has owned businesses in grocery export, antique restoration, roofing, landscaping, international & wireless telecommunications, heating & cooling, computer sales, writing & editing, typing & desktop publishing, construction, real estate agent, real estate investing & renovating, project management, business consultant, home inspector, photographer, and author.

A SHORT RUSSEL RAY TIMELINE:

1962—Received his first plant, a heart-leaf ivy (*Philodendron cordatum*), from his first grade teacher.

1966—Got started in photography as a volunteer elementary school events photographer.

1968—Created a 100-square-foot cactus rock garden in his grandmother's yard.

1973—Became fascinated with the Fibonacci sequence of numbers and how they are expressed in nature.

2017—Retired and started learning the scientific names for all his favorite plants.





Hollywood Forever Cemetery
Photo credit: Kimberly Gomez-Tong

PLANT ^{Of} _{the} MONTH

2 0 2 2

JANUARY

Frailea
Adromischus

FEBRUARY

Monotypic
Senecio, Othonna

MARCH

Mammillaria Clusters
Aloe Clusters

APRIL

Escobaria, Acharagma
Aizoaceae Thickened Roots

MAY

Cacti staged as miniature
Succulent staged as miniature
(Diameter of pot
NO LARGER THAN 3")

JUNE

Favorites

JULY

Discocactus
Dyckia

AUGUST

Thelocactus-Hamatocactus
Bursera

SEPTEMBER

Gymnocalycium
Euphorbia Millii type

OCTOBER

Astrophytum
Sansevieria

NOVEMBER

Variegated
Variegated

DECEMBER

Holiday Awards Party

PLANT ^{Of} _{the} MONTH

2 0 2 3

JANUARY

Matucana, Submatucana, Oroya
Aeonium

FEBRUARY

Coryphantha, Neolloydia, Neobesseyia
Sarcocaulon

MARCH

Echinocactus
Anacampseros, Avonia, Grahamiahgggh

APRIL

Aztekium, Epithelantha
Aloinopsis, Antimima, Aptenia, Argyroderma

MAY

Cacti staged as miniature
Succulent staged as miniature
(Diameter of pot
NO LARGER THAN 3")

JUNE

Favorites

JULY

Melocactus
Euphorbia Medusoid

AUGUST

Mammillaria (Dichotomous & 2 Heads)
Gasteria, Astroloba

SEPTEMBER

Cacti from Coahuila
Nolina, Calibanus, Beaucarnea

OCTOBER

Espostoa
Fouquieria

NOVEMBER

Crest and Monstrose

DECEMBER

Holiday Awards Party

VARIEGATES

B Y K Y L E W I L L I A M S

Variegation is the appearance of differently colored areas leaf or stem due to a partial loss of chlorophyll. This is usually due to genetic mutation, developmental abnormalities or certain viruses. People have also been able to induce variegation in plants through the use of radiation or treatment with certain chemicals. The scientific details of exactly how variegation arises in plants, and how it is maintained (or lost), are too complex to go into in depth here.

The pattern may be consistent and well organized (e.g. many Agave) or it may be randomly distributed (e.g. most variegated cacti). Plants with patchy or mosaic patterns of variegation are often the result of a cell mutation that is fairly random. In other words the plant may be prone to producing cells without chlorophyll sporadically, and when that cell appears it divides many times (just like normal cells). Some plants have fairly organized and consistent variegation patterns. That is quite often due to different meristem (i.e. mother) cells being responsible for forming different layers or parts of a leaf or stem. For example, if the meristem cells responsible for making the outer edges of a leaf have the variegation gene while meristem cells for the center of the leaf do not, you will get a consistent pattern of white edges and a green center.

Plants totally lacking in chlorophyll (achlorophyllus), such as the brightly colored grafted *Gymnocalycium* cultivars are technically not variegated, but are considered so for the purposes of cacti and succulent shows. Keep in mind, a plant is not variegated just because the leaves have colored areas. It must be partially lacking chlorophyll as well.

Variegated plants normally have white or yellow patches and streaks, but can also be colors including red, orange, brown, pink, and purple. Colors other than white are due to the presence of colored plant pigments such as anthocyanins and carotenoids.



Senecio aristata



Euphorbia mammillaris



Agave victoriae-reginae

Variegation is known throughout the plant kingdom, but is rarely seen in the wild. The reason variegated plants are common in horticulture is that people like the color and unusual nature of these plants. When a rare variegate appears in a batch of seedlings we are keen to grow it, propagate it and spread it around!

Variegated plants have a place in most gardens. The strange and colorful patterns bring unique visual interest to any collection. In cacti and succulent shows, variegates are generally compete against other variegates to put them on an equal footing. The Intercity Show gives the following guideline for showing plants in the variegated category: "Plants with 30% or more variegation may only appear in such category except for variegation in Agave, Gasteria, Sanseveria."

VARIEGATES

B Y K Y L E W I L L I A M S



Aeonium sunburst crest

In general, variegated plants grow slower and are smaller than non-variegates of the same species. They also tend to sunburn easily and most need more sun protection than a typical member of the species. Ironically, variegates also have less shade tolerance than their non-variegated counterparts. The reason for this is that chlorophyll “soaks up” the sunlight to make food. With less chlorophyll the plant needs more light to get the same amount of food, but at the same time the more delicate tissues are exposed to the light without any protection. A good rule of thumb is simply not to grow variegates in extremely bright or dark situations. Otherwise, the care of a variegated plant is the same as for the normal form of the species. A large well grown variegate of any species is truly an achievement.

EXAMPLES OF VARIEGATED SUCCULENTS

AGAVES –

Variegates of a number of Agave species exist. One of the most fascinating is *Agave lophantha* ‘Quadricolor’. This cultivar exhibits multiple degrees of variegation in every leaf. The outer stripes lack chlorophyll completely, the middle stripes are fully green, but the center stripe has a partial loss of chlorophyll resulting in a pale green stripe! The fourth color in ‘Quadricolor’ is seen in the reddish teeth.



Astrophytum asterias

AEONIUM – *Aeonium* ‘Sunburst’ and *A.* ‘Kiwi’ are by far the most commonly seen *Aeonium* variegates in cultivation. However, attractive variegates are known from several other species such as *A. castello-paivae*, *A. balsamiferum*, and even *A. tabuliforme*. It should be noted that the dark purple to black cultivars such as *A. ‘Atropurpureum’* and *A. ‘Zwartkop’* are not considered variegates.

CACTI –

Variegates can be found in many genera. *Gymnocalycium* are the most often seen, especially the grafted *G. mihanovichii* cultivars lacking chlorophyll. Bright red, yellow, orange or even pink varieties can be seen at most nurseries and even home improvement stores. Unfortunately they are somewhat tricky to grow and most plants owned by novices die shortly after purchase. Some columnar variegates and some *Ferocactus* variegates are common in cultivation. The odd variegate appears in many seedling batches. Variegated *Turbinicarpus*, *Astrophytum*, *Matucana* and *Ariocarpus* have been seen at some of recent shows. These less commonly seen variegates can be quite valuable.

HAWORTHIA –

Some of the most unusual and expensive of all variegated plants can be found in *Haworthia*. Japanese horticulturalists have done extensive breeding on *Haworthia* (and the closely related *Gasteria*). A Google search for “Japanese *Haworthia*” will bring you countless websites and images of these amazing variegated cultivars. Certain variegated varieties of *H. truncata* can sell on Ebay for over \$1000!



Haworthia limifolia

2023 LACSS Elections

We will hold our annual election of officers at our November 3, 2022 meeting.

There were no nominations from the floor at the October 6 meeting.

Therefore, the slate is as follows:

First Vice President - Programs **Ron Behar** (incumbent)

Second Vice President -POM Coordinator **Manny Rivera** (incumbent)

Secretary **Kate Eplboim** (incumbent)

Director 1 - Membership **Kelsey Osterman**

On behalf of the LACSS Board of Directors, we thank everyone
for your support and participation in club activities.

TAFT GARDEN:

A Magnificent, Natural Kaleidoscope



Over 20 LACSS members and their guests enjoyed a field trip to Taft Garden on October 15. After a welcome from founder John Taft's granddaughter Alexandra, we were free to wander the 264 acres of grounds and buildings, including the Australian Garden, South African Garden, Aloe Garden, Zen Garden, Agave and Cactus Gardens, Eco Garden Pavilion, and more. If you want to visit the Taft Gardens; Nature Preserve on your own,

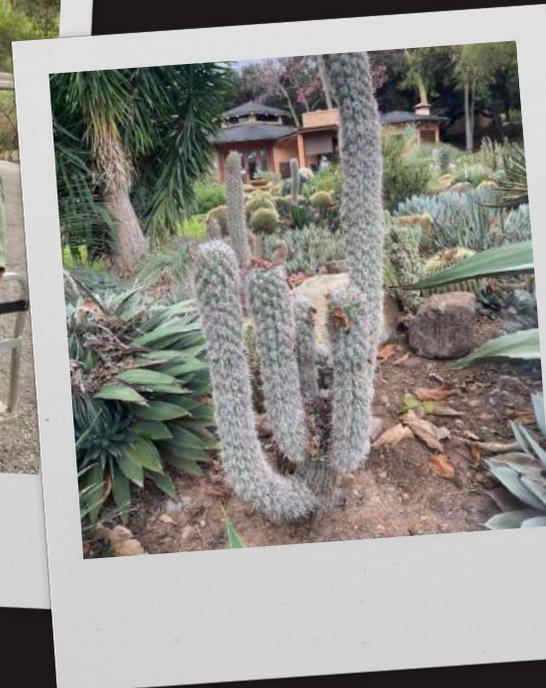
[CLICK HERE](#)

and Susan Phillips, Rosemary Ecker, Kyle Medina, Leslie Raymond, Rose Polito, Joyce Schuman, Desiree Alexander, Cande and Lee Friedman, Carol Gaspar, Ron Behar, Manju Talreja, and Ron Behar.

Here's what they had to say about the trip, along with their photos:

"Loved this tour. Mr. John Taft, and his granddaughter Alexandra, were gracious and welcoming hosts. The grounds cover 264 acres of fairly wild property. There is an abundance of wildlife. John even offered to dedicate a section of the park to our LACSS club if we want to develop it."

Ron Behar





"Taft Garden is a special garden in the Ojai Area. The garden is well planned with interesting succulents, a unique house and a Japanese Zen garden. It is worth the trip."

Carol Gaspar

"A highlight for us was meeting John Taft, the man who designed & developed this hidden gem of a garden. I love the idea that our club may be doing a project in the future to enhance the beauty of the Taft Garden. A trip to see the blooming aloes would be fun!"

Barbara Hall



"The visit was very worthwhile. A fascinating story and a remarkable garden. Well worth the "trouble" of getting there!"

Ron Cooper

"Great day today. What an amazing place. Very nice that Mr. Taft graced us with his presence. Nice to get an inside scoop on the beginnings of those gardens and meditative spots. I always love seeing plants I never knew existed."

Leslie Raymond

"For me, it was an extraordinary trip in so many respects. The endearing hospitality of the owners who gave us the opportunity to explore their amazing grounds, was very touching. It was a magical day ..a soothing respite from the sounds of a world that at times seems calamitous. A piece of heaven on earth, with a magnificent natural kaleidoscope. It was informative, educational and spiritually uplifting."

Manju Talreja



2023 MEMBER?

YOUR 2023 MEMBERSHIP TO THE LACSS IS
YOUR CHRISTMAS GIFT TO YOURSELF AND FAMILY.

RENEW NOW BEFORE DECEMBER 31, 2022
TO ENSURE YOU CONTINUE TO RECEIVE YOUR MONTHLY
CHRONICLE WITH ZOOM LINK WITHOUT INTERRUPTION

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP – \$20 ANNUALLY
FAMILY MEMBERSHIP – \$25 ANNUALLY

THERE ARE 3 WAYS TO RENEW:

ONLINE VIA PAYPAL

[CLIC K H E R E T O P A Y V I A P A Y P A L](#)

Scroll to the bottom of page and select "Individual" or "Family" and add to cart

CHECK VIA MAIL

[CLIC K H E R E T O P R I N T A N A P P L I C A T I O N](#)

OR IN-PERSON AT THE NEXT MEETING!

LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING ALL OF YOU IN 2023
AT OUR MEETINGS OR ON ZOOM

Send form with check or money order to:
LACSS Membership Chair
P.O. Box 280581
Northridge, CA 91328

ONEgeneration LANDSCAPE PROJECT for LACSS

ONEgeneration is in the final stages of constructing a new "CommunityRoom" at their Farmer's Market site. Because of our relationship with them, they have asked the members LACSS to landscape the area surrounding the new room with cacti and succulents. This should be a fun project and will involve designing, gathering plants, and assisting in the installation later this year.

John Matthews recently closed his growing greenhouse in Somis and donated many flats of agaves, echeverias, and aloes for the project. These plants need some TLC - separating, weeding, and cleaning. We need about 10 volunteers to help with this initial part of the project on November 12 from 10:00AM until about 2:00PM at the home of Jim and Roxie Esterle.

To express our gratitude for your labor, members will be given lunch that highlights Indian food prepared by our new member Manju Talreja. There will also be some plants to share. This is a great learning opportunity for new members, too.

If you would like to participate or if you have any questions, please email Roxie at Roxie.esterle@gmail.com. Volunteers will get a confirmation letter with our address and instructions about what tools to bring.