



AN AMERICAN CENTURY

At the home of Joanne and Alan LaBeouf at 3392 Olympic, a drama nearly a century in the making played out. Well, not *quite* a century, but 15 years at least. It was the spectacular and legendary flowering of the Century plant, *Agave americana*, its last act before dying, but not before hatching a nursery-full of 'pups' to carry on its name. The final act a drama of epic proportions, the storied plant launches a drainpipe sized spire more than 20 feet into the sky, from which flowering bracts burst. They look nice enough in daylight, but it's said that the nighttime version of the blossoms are spectacular and floweringly fragrant.

Crowned with spikes
This Desert dream
Child of centuries
And ageless scheme

Earth proposes,
The Sun's embrace
One bloom's gift
A fevered pace

Towering stalk
Fragrant tower
Night's kiss lights
Sky's fiery hour

Leaves surrender
To life anew
From its yearning heart
Young break through

Earth rejoices
A tale reborn
The gift of a Century
A new day sworn

- EDITOR



Photos: Editor

