

**San Diego Botanic Garden Docent/Volunteer Meeting  
November 6, 2013**

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 am and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Liz Rozycki identified the items on the plant raffle table. Margaret Jones and Tandy Pfost won the early bird raffle.

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as listed on the Docent website.

**Treasurer's Report**

Tandy Pfost reported that there is currently \$1928.53 in the Docent Society fund. However, the refreshment budget is still running in the red at minus \$134.21.

Future refreshments expenditures will be limited to \$30.00 per meeting. If this amount is not collected at the previous meeting, or available in reserve funds, additional refreshments will not be purchased. Robin Hermann requested help with the refreshment preparation for the January 2014 meeting.

Anyone with ideas for spending Docent monies for the Garden is invited to send ideas to Kitty Sparrow.

**Chairperson's Report**

Kitty Sparrow reported that the December 11 meeting of the Book Buddies group will be held at 10 am in the Lawn House. This month's book is, *The Dirty Life: A Memoir of Farming, Food, and Love* by Kristin Kimball. This author also has a website, which might be of interest to readers at: [www.kristenkimball.com](http://www.kristenkimball.com). Group members are encouraged to bring lunch to the meeting.

A list of books under consideration for the 2014 season also will be presented at the December meeting. Anyone with additional ideas for the list should call Sarah Clayton before the meeting.

Kitty also stated that the number of artists scheduled to sell their wares at the December 4 monthly general meeting has reached twelve. She reminded members of the change in start time for the December meeting to 10 am (not the usual 9:30 am).

She also reported that Barbara Farley needs people to volunteer time in the admission booth during the remainder of November.

**Coordinator and Committee Reports**

**Tour Guides**

Anne Spindel stated that the monthly tour guide meeting will be held Thursday, November 14 at 10 am. Check at the admissions booth to see if the location is the Larabee House or the Ecke Building. Mary Roper will be leading the group in making holiday pumpkin centerpieces using eight-inch pumpkins filled with natural materials (seeds and leaves) from the Garden. Please bring your own pumpkin.

Bring any documents that you feel might be helpful to people giving Garden tours to the November meeting. Allan Dodds will be creating a website using the best of these resources. Any subject (historical, botanical, horticultural, how to give tours, etc.) is welcome. Members can also scan information and email it to Anne.

**Trip Trio**

Carol Eblen announced that the Thursday, November 7 trip to the residences of Norma and Ron McAfee and Sue Richardson is the last of the 2013 season. Art items will be for sale at the Richardson garden. The tours will be followed by lunch at Anita's Restaurant. There is ample parking for both events and directions are on the Docent website. Tours begin at 10 am and people carpooling from the Garden will meet between 9–9:30 am.

### **Garden Beautification**

Peter Jones announced that there are 24 new volunteers working in the Garden Beautification program, and those members present were acknowledged. New members should call Susan Starr to get their names in the information directory.

The November schedule for beautification is on the Docent website. There will be no Garden Beautification program during Thanksgiving weekend.

### **Milestones**

Docents and volunteers were reminded to regularly record their work hours. If members save up hours before recording them and thus pass over intermediate award levels, only the highest-level reward will be given. Record hours online or at the monthly meeting, but not both locations.

Milestone awards are listed on the back of the Agenda for each monthly meeting.

### **Program**

Bette Childs announced that the December program is an art sale, which will begin at 9 am. The monthly business meeting will begin at 10 am and will be followed by a potluck lunch. Art will be on sale both before and after the meeting. Each member should bring an item for the potluck.

### **Fall Plant Sale**

Stacy Gaudet thanked everyone who worked on the Fall Plant Sale and announced that it was the most successful to date.

### **Garden of Lights**

Mary Roper reminded everyone that there is a meeting of all team leaders, plus other interested volunteers, on Friday, November 8 at 10 am in the Ecke Building. The group will be preparing craft projects, which will be available to children each night during the Garden of Lights.

Mary also stated that there is a class on making fairy gardens on Sunday, November 10. The cost will be \$25.00 per garden.

### **Volunteer of the Month**

Honoring Mary Cozza as the November Volunteer of the Month was postponed until January 2014.

### **Plant of the Month**

Paul Redeker introduced the Plant of the Month, *Cordyline banksii*, also known as electric pink.

### **Plant Raffle**

The November plant raffle was held with members choosing from a selection of plants, soil amendments, and hand-crafted jewelry.

### **SDBG Staff Reports**

**President:** Julian Duval thanked everyone for the time and effort put into the successful Fall Plant Sale. He gave special mention to Stacy Gaudet and Liz Woodward, the co-chairpersons of the event.

**Development:** Tracie Barham announced that Tom and Cathy Staver have given a lead pledge of \$250,000 toward the building of an Education and Events Pavilion to be located adjacent to the Hamilton Children's Garden. This building, which is in the final stages of design development, will include a large main hall, classrooms, a kitchen for catering and cooking classes, an amphitheater, and easy access from the adjacent parking lot. A conservatory-like structure to house exotic botanical wonders that are not typically found in the Garden or in the region will also be part of the structure.

**Operations:** Pat Hammer introduced Avi Asnkow, who will be working in the Garden as an intern for the next 15 months. He is affiliated with the Jerusalem Botanic Garden in Israel and is also working with Jewish Food Justice in cooperation with the Leichtag Foundation.

Pat also announced that members of the Jerusalem Botanic Garden will be visiting SDBG this month.

**Education & Events:** Sam Beukema discussed the 22-night long Garden of Lights festival in December. He said that help was needed in admissions, ticket sales, marshmallow roasting, driving carts, selling mulled wine and acting as Santa and Santa's helpers. Signup information was available at the meeting.

Sam also reminded members that there are upcoming classes in photography, succulent wreaths, holiday cooking and making fairy gardens.

**Marketing:** Jodie Wiebusch announced that there is a policy review underway concerning photography and videography in the Garden. Professional photographers or those shooting for group events will need to fill out applications, pay a fee, and wear a badge during filming. This would apply to events such as wedding, professional shoots and family portraits. There will also be a sliding-scale fee charged for all professional/commercial photography. Photography guidelines would also be listed with admission information.

Jodie also stated that a survey of Garden visitors is planned. Avi Asnkow will be helping with this project.

The Garden will be entering a float in the December 7, 2013 Encinitas holiday parade. The theme will be *Growing Holiday Cheer*. It will be built on a 21.5 x 8.5-foot flatbed trailer. Volunteers are needed to help with design development now and with construction later.

**Membership:** Nancy Kelly announced that 62 new memberships in SDBG were sold during the Fall Plant Sale.

She reminded everyone that half-price SDBG memberships are available to docents, volunteers and staff through December 20, 2013. These are to be used as gifts only and are not available as renewals of current memberships.

Sarah Wilkins was introduced as a new Development Assistant.

The county of San Diego has approved the amount of \$10,500 for a new floor for the Ecke Building. The funds are being made possible by the Board of Supervisors with special thanks to Supervisor Dave Roberts.

The wooden nickel program at Jimbo's Market continues at all San Diego stores through December 31. One of four recipients of profits from this program is SDBG.

**Seeds of Wonder:** Susanne Brueckner announced the success of the toddler Halloween event. She also thanked all volunteers for their help. Susanne also said that the SOW program is looking for a fish tank to be used for aquaponics.

**Program:** Linda Bressler, designer of the 2012 *San Diego Home & Garden's* grand prize-winning, drought tolerant garden, discussed landscaping with native plants. Her talk was accompanied by a slide show of the evolution of the property.

Respectfully submitted,  
Nan Criqui, Secretary