

## **San Diego Botanic Garden Docent/Volunteer Meeting January 8, 2014**

The meeting was called to order at 9:34 and the Pledge Of Allegiance was recited.

The minutes of the previous meeting on December 3, 2013 were approved as listed on the Docent website.

Liz Rozycki identified the items on the plant raffle table. Joan Herskowitz won the early bird raffle.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Tandy Pfost reported that the Docent Fund has a balance of \$1257.39 as of January 1, 2014. Recent purchases from Docent funds totaled \$402.06 and included a new card swivel and an antique mirror for the SDBG Gift Shop and payment to Nick Ruddick for the display board in front of the Gift Shop.

The refreshment budget ended the 2013 year in the red at minus \$80.21. From January 2014 onward, only money previously collected for refreshments will be available for the next meeting's needs. The refreshment jar will be passed bi-monthly for members to contribute, and it is hoped that member donations will be able to keep this activity funded.

It was suggested that members might sometimes supplement refreshments with fresh fruits from the Garden that are otherwise going to waste.

Robin Hermann was thanked for her work running the refreshment committee in 2013 and taking this job on again in 2014. Members were also reminded that Robin always needs help with post-meeting cleanup.

### **Chairperson's Report**

Kitty Sparrow introduced Susan Starr who supplied members with a new page (yellow) of updates for the 2013 SDBG Docent and Volunteer Directory.

Kitty announced that she will be out of town from January 9 through January 20 and that any issues should be referred to Vice-Chairperson Jane Hunt during that time. The Docent Executive Board, which normally meets the third Wednesday of the month, will be meeting the forth Monday, January 22, this month

### **Coordinator and Committee Reports**

**Book Buddies:** Liz Woodward announced that the next meeting of the book club is Wednesday, February 12 at 12 pm in the Lawn House. The book selection is, *"The Language of Flowers,"* by Vanessa Diffenbaugh. Bring a sack lunch for this hour-long meeting. Book Buddies meet every other month in even-numbered months. All are welcome.

**Tour Guides:** Diana Goforth stated that the Tour Guides group will meet Thursday, January 9 at 10am. Tour scheduling will be discussed.

**Trip Trio:** Peggy Overland announced that February's trip will be to the San Diego Water Conservation Garden, with the tour led by SDBG's Director of Horticulture, Paul Redeker, who is a previous director of the Water Conservation Garden. The trip is scheduled for Wednesday, February 19 and will depart the Garden at 9 am. After the Garden tour the group will visit Planter's Paradise, where members will be able to buy garden pottery. Following the trip, the group will lunch at the Sunshine and Succulent Café. There is no trip planned for January.

**Garden Beautification:** Barry Martin announced the Garden Beautification work parties for January 2014. All are scheduled from 9 am to noon. They are:  
January 11 – Sub-tropical plants

January 18 – Tropical rain forest  
January 25 – California native's gardenscape

**Milestones:** Fran Spath and Suzanne Carnerio announced the names of members who have reached either 90, 200 or 400 hours of service to the garden in 2013. Their names are listed on the back of the Agenda for the January 2014 meeting.

**Docents in Training:** Linda Stewart said that there will be a new session of Docent Training Classes beginning February 6. The training consists of 8 classes, one every other week for 8 weeks. The training costs \$50.00. Any current Docents who wish to refresh their knowledge are welcome to attend any of the classes.

Linda also introduced 6 new Docents who have graduated from the DIT training classes. They are: Margie Bourke, Marina Bogomolova, Walt Burkhard, Judy Focht, Karen O'Neill and Mary Cozza.

**Volunteer of the Month:** This award was postponed until the February meeting.

**Plant of the Month:** Liz Rozecki introduced the plant of the month, *Ribes speciosum*, the fuchsia-flowering gooseberry.

**Succulent Sale:** The Gift Shop will be holding a succulent sale from January 18 through February 1. Prices will be 10% off the general public and an additional 10% off to docents.

### **SDBG Staff Reports**

**President:** Julian Duval stated that 2013 was a very successful year for the Garden with attendance estimated to be over 200,000 for the year.

Julian also pointed out the new flooring in the Ecke building that was recently installed. He thanked district supervisor, Dave Roberts for helping the Garden to receive a neighborhood reinvestment grant of \$10,000 to help cover the costs.

The annual meeting of the SDBG Foundation will be Saturday, January 25, 2014 at 10 am. All docents and volunteers are invited to attend. At this meeting there will be a vote to change the SDBG bylaws so that voting for board members is changed from non-statutory to statutory status. If passed, this will mean that board members will be selected by current board members rather than by total membership of the San Diego Botanic Garden Foundation as is currently done.

Several members raised questions concerning why and how this would be done and what long-term effects this change might have. Julian stated that the change was needed to secure the long-term stability of the organization, limit its vulnerability to challenges from outside interests, and to enable the organization to increase its ability to solicit funding for future, major projects. Questions raised included concerns about insuring that the board would remain true to the general membership goals for the Garden as stated in the bylaws and what legal mechanisms would be available in the event of a hostile takeover.

Julian also introduced Tom Applegate, the chairman of the San Diego Botanic Garden Foundation who also answered questions about the proposed changes in the bylaws.

Tom spoke of the tremendous growth of the organizations since its incorporation as the Quail Botanical Gardens Foundation on 1964. He discussed a proposed collaboration between the Encinitas School District and SDBG to create an Agro-Ecology Learning Center, which would be used by the Encinitas schools in conjunction with the Garden.

Tom also spoke of the interests of the SDBG Foundation in working with the Leichtag Foundation to achieve long-term goals for the growth and preservation of the Garden.

**Operations:** Pat Hammer thanked everyone for their work in making the 2013 Garden of Lights a success. She stated that more than \$167,000 in ticket sales had been collected.

**Education & Events:** Sam Beukema also thanked members for their help with the Garden of Lights. He stated that more than 2,000 volunteer hours had been recorded by workers during this period. Sam read a letter from famed garden writer Pat Welsh thanking garden volunteers for creating a wonderful experience for her and her family during the Garden of Lights.

**Development:** Tracie Barham discussed the importance of planned giving to the success of the Garden in the future. She stated that one family had recently given the Garden more than \$164,000 via planned giving. She also mentioned that several docents are members of the Arbor Vitae Guild, which promotes planned giving to the Garden.

Nancy Kelly announced that the annual fund for the Garden raised more than \$42,000 for 2013. She also thanked Bill Rawlings who gave a \$3000 sponsorship gift for the Fairy Festival.

**Marketing & Public Relations:** Jodie Wiebusch stated that the SDBG float in the Encinitas holiday parade had won three awards: first, for best use of theme; second, for best overall; and third, for best use of lights. She thanked everyone for their efforts.

Jodie said a new group that will concentrate on outreach efforts is forming. She invited interested docents and members to join.

**Program:** The monthly program followed the general meeting and a break for refreshments. The program for this month was, *Creating Legacies: Benefitting Yourself, Your Heirs, and Charity Through Legacy Planning*, presented by Cynthia Steiger.

Respectfully submitted,  
Nan Criqui, Secretary