

## **San Diego Botanic Garden General Meeting December 3, 2014**

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 am and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The minutes of the previous meeting of November 5, 2014 were approved as listed on the Docent website.

No plant raffle was held today.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Tandy Pfost reported that the Docent Fund had a balance of \$1,832.96 at the beginning of 2014 and an ending balance as of November 2014 of \$1,383.35. So far this year the Docent group has contributed \$1,652.65 to the Garden. This includes 2 communications radios (\$767.90), 4 garden carts (\$468.97), and garden tools (\$415.78). The new range for the Ecke building kitchen mentioned in the November 2014 minutes was not purchased with Docent funds.

### **Chairperson's Report**

Barbara Farley asked for volunteers to sign up for shifts in the Welcome Center for the month of December. Many shifts still need to be filled.

**Book Buddies:** This month's book is *My Garden* by Jamaica Kincaid. Book club meets the second Wednesday of even-numbered months in the Lawn House at 12 noon. This month's meeting is Wednesday, December 10. Bag lunches are encouraged.

Outgoing chairperson, Kitty Sparrow introduced the slate of officers for the 2015-2016 term. She then conducted the installation ceremony and presented each outgoing officer with a small gift of appreciation.

The new officers are:

Chairperson: Jane Hunt  
Vice Chairperson: Mary Friestedt  
Treasurer: Tandy Pfost  
Secretary: Nan Criqui

Jane Hunt officially took the gavel as chairperson and thanked Kitty for her service during the past two years. She presented Kitty with a gift (a framed photograph of her favorite green heron at the Bamboo Garden pond) from the Docent society as a thank-you for her service.

### **Coordinator and Committee Reports**

**Terrific Trips:** Peggy Overland announced that the next venue for the Docent trips will be Sunshine Care Assisted Living in Poway. The campus of this facility includes 32 acres of organic gardens, greenhouses and community gardens. The trip will be January 22, 2015. Carpools will leave the garden at 9:15. The tour begins at 10 am. Lunch will follow the tour at a local restaurant.

**Garden Beautification:** All meetings are Wednesdays from 9 am to 12 noon.

December 6: Subtropical Fruit

December 13: Subtropical Fruit

December 22: TBA

December 27: Holiday - no meetings

**Gift Shop:** Roberta Dotson announced that customers are giving the renovated Gift Shop a big “wow!”. She encouraged members to do their holiday shopping there.

**Milestones:** Jane Hunt read the milestone recipients for docents and volunteers who have reached 90, 200, or 400 hours of service to the Garden in 2014. These people are also listed on the back of the agenda for the monthly general meetings.

**Plant of the Month:** No plant was featured this month.

**Volunteer of the Month:** Karen O'Neill introduced the volunteers for the month of December. Fondly known as the 'botanic print ladies', volunteers Elizabeth How and Nannette Clark have been volunteering for more than 17 years making botanic print cards using garden flora as models. These cards are sold in the Gift Shop and also at special occasions like the Garden of Lights and the Herb Festival.

The Christmas tree entered in the Balboa Park exhibit by the Garden this year will be decorated with cards printed by Elizabeth and Nannette.

## **SDBG Staff Reports**

**President:** Julian Duval thanked 'botanic print ladies' Elizabeth How and Nannette Clark for their ongoing work and called them 'true assets' for the Garden.

Julian reminded members that the first Monday of each month a group of volunteers meet for birding in the Garden at 8 am. He remarked that the Garden is an oasis for wildlife and new birds are seen each year. The program for the January volunteer meeting will be presented by the birding group of SDBG.

Julian also presented information about the ongoing effort to site a communications tower for the local sheriff's department in or near the Garden. He and others are working with local authorities to find a suitable site that is not within the Garden or in its view corridor toward the ocean. He stated examples that reinforce a historic precedent against using the SDBG land for anything but botanical uses.

**Operations:** Pat Hammer expressed the appreciation of Garden staff for volunteers. She wished all volunteers a happy holiday.

Pat also announced that Lita Dantes has been selected to serve as Wedding Site Manager for the garden. She also stated that intern Avi Asnkow has completed his internship at the Garden and will be leaving in a few days. Pat thanked him for his great help over the past year.

Pat also thanked Kitty Sparrow, outgoing chairperson of the Docent organization for her years of dedication to the Garden.

**Education:** Sam Beukema asked volunteers to continue to sign up for the Garden of Lights and stated that many positions were still open including Welcome Center, crafts for children, and mulled wine booth.

**Development:** Nancy Kelly showed members the new 2015 calendar, the Garden's first effort in that area. It is on sale now and could be bought at the meeting. Also there are still half-price gift memberships available through December 22. These are available for volunteers to purchase as gifts for others.

Nancy stated that the Garden has received \$2000.00 from the Encinitas Garden and Festival Department to construct a chicken garden on site.

**Marketing:** Lisa Reynolds announced that members can still volunteer to participate in the Encinitas Holiday Parade. The Garden float needs volunteers to walk the parade route beside the float. Also tomorrow, December 4 at 10 am, there will be a decorating meeting for the float in the HGC. The parade takes place Saturday, December 6 from 5-7 pm.

Members were encouraged to take a Garden of Lights flyer and post it in a local business.

Members were also encouraged to sign up for Free Tuesday monitoring duty in December. Free Tuesday is the first Tuesday of each month.

**Program:** The program this month is the annual Holiday Potluck Lunch. Artists who are also volunteers at the Garden displayed their artwork for sale in booths outside the building before and after the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,  
Nan Criqui, Secretary