

San Diego Botanic Garden Docent/Volunteer General Meeting September 7, 2016

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

Liz Rozycki introduced the plants on the plant table.

The early bird and overflow raffle drawings were held.

The minutes of the August 3, 2016 meeting were approved as listed on the Docent website.

Treasurer's Report

Tandy Pfost reported that the Docent Fund had a balance of \$2039.17 at the beginning of 2016. The ending balance for August was \$2,301.29. Raffle tickets netted a post-expense balance of \$580.00 and the refreshment fund balance was minus (-\$52.94).

Chairperson's Report

Members were reminded that it is possible this year to bid on auction items in advance online for the *Gala in the Garden* through the SDBG Gala webpage. More than 157 items are available this year.

Free Tuesday will be on October 4 next month and help is always needed in many areas.

Jane Hunt announced that a new **Hospitality Chairperson** will be needed beginning with the November general meeting. Signup sheets were available for quarterly help with hospitality during 2017.

Persons wishing to have a craft table at the November general meeting **Craft Bazaar** were asked to contact Jane Hunt.

In honor of the upcoming Fall Plant Sale, Propagation Nursery Coordinator Deb Batey shared the SDBG recipe for basic potting mix with the group: three parts good potting soil, one part perlite and one part pumice.

Fall Plant Sale: There were signup sheets for many activities for the Fall Plant Sale setup Monday through Friday, October 10-14 and for the weekend event, October 15-17. T-shirts for the event were on sale at break.

Callers' packets have been distributed. Any questions e-mail Liz Woodward at liz@woodwardweb.net Drivers' packets also have been distributed. Drivers have a meeting scheduled following the October general meeting. More drivers are needed and signups were available. Drivers will be reimbursed for their mileage with Plant Sale bucks.

Workers should bring their own lunch during the setup week. Everyone will break at 12 noon and share lunch together.

The Botanic Attic, Book Sale, and Bakery Sale all need items donated. If possible donors were asked to wait until October 10 to bring in items for sale. Jars are still needed for the Jams and Jellies section.

Slate of Candidates for Office 2017: Sue Papreck announced the slate of officers nominated to lead the Docent Society in 2017. They are:

Chairperson:	Mary Friestedt
Co-chairperson:	Allan Dodds
Treasurer:	Tandy Pfost
Secretary:	Susan Starr

The vote will take place at the November general meeting. Additional nominations will be taken from the floor at that time.

Welcome Center: Volunteers are needed. Anyone trained for this position email Cheryl Mergenthaler at cmergenthaler@sdbgarden.org

Committee Reports

Botanic Book Buddies: Barb Farley announced that the next meeting of this group is Wednesday, October 12 at noon in the Lawn House. [*This date was changed after this meeting to October 19 because of conflict with the Fall Plant Sale.*] The book selection is *Elephant Company* by Vicki Constantine Croke. The group is looking for suggestions from members for 2017 books.

Tour Guides: The September meeting of this group is postponed for one week because of conflicts with the Gala in the Garden. Mary Roper will send members an e-blast about the new time. There will be no speaker at the September meeting; members will discuss their favorite plants.

Milestones: Sue Ruddick announced that 17 docents achieved the 90-hour milestone, 4 docents achieved the 200-hour milestone and 2 docents reached the 400-hour milestone. Carol Anne Lewin announced that 4 volunteers achieved the 90-hour mark and 2 volunteers achieved the 200-hour mark.

History Committee: Stacy Fattaleh gave a short presentation on Ruth and Charles Larabee. Sally Sandler was thanked for her time and efforts in writing *Sowing Seeds of Wonder: The Stories of Ruth and Charles Larabee and the Origins of San Diego Botanic Garden*. This book is now on sale in the Gift Shop. All profits will be donated to SDBG.

Garden Beautification: Peter Jones announced that the new co-captains of the Desert Garden team are Will and Sally Willis.

Work parties scheduled for September are:

Saturday, September 3:	Bamboo Garden - Barry Martin & Mary Cozza
Saturday, September 10:	No gardening because of the Gala
Saturday, September 17:	Seeds of Wonder - Sally Sandler (need volunteers from bamboo)
Saturday, September 24:	Peter Jones - location to be announced

DIT: The first meeting of the new session of Docent Training classes is Thursday, September 8.

Plant of the Month: Paul Redeker introduced the passion flower, *Passiflora edulus*.

Volunteer of the Month: Pat Hilty is the VOM for September. She was introduced by Susan Gjerset.

The plant raffle was held.

Staff Reports

President: Julian Duval asked that those wishing to visit Sam the Tortoise need to schedule a visit through Kathy or Leslie. Julian noted that visits are generally limited to families and special needs individuals.

Julian also thanked Sally Sandler for her efforts writing the Larabee book (mentioned above).

Only one-half million dollars more is needed for the Dickinson Family Educational Conservatory; over 4.7 million dollars has been raised. The groundbreaking ceremony for this building on August 7, 2016 was a success. One of the features of the new building will be 18-foot chandeliers covered in plants.

SOW & HGC: Susanne Brueckner announced a volunteer opportunity at the Carlsbad Rotary Club's October 1 Holiday Park event. Volunteers are needed to help with children's art projects. Also upcoming is the Family Fall Festival in the Garden on October 29.

Operations: Ian Cole asked that anyone who sees things in the Garden that need to be fixed to please report these items to him.

Development: Carolyn Zollars thanked all who worked with the Gala and in making the Silent Auction a success. She also announced an upcoming tile campaign for the Dickinson Family Education Conservatory.

Education: Sam Beukema stated that photography winners in the joint contest of SDBG and the Jerusalem Botanic Garden are on display in the Ecke Building.

He also noted that signups for volunteers for the December *Garden of Lights* are available now.

Marketing & Public Relations: Lisa Reynolds noted that KUSI will broadcast interviews with staff members, about the *Gala in the Garden*, on Thursday, September 8 at 9:20 am on channel 9.

Respectfully submitted,
Nan Criqui, Secretary

