

## **SDBG Docent/Volunteer General Meeting October 5, 2016**

The meeting 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 raffle table; all the plants presented will also be available at the upcoming Fall Plant Sale. Early-bird and overflow drawings were held.

The minutes of September 7, 2016 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 September was \$2379.95. Raffle tickets netted a post-expense balance of \$695.00 and the refreshment fund balance was minus (-\$89.28).

Jane Hunt asked members to think about how the Docent Fund should be spent to benefit the volunteer program.

### **Chairperson's Report**

**Fall Plant Sale:** Liz Woodward announced that driver packets have been distributed and no additional drivers are needed. Thelma Montag called for everyone to contribute baked goods to be sold during the Fall Plant Sale. Baked goods can be left in the foyer of the Ecke Building beginning of Friday, October 14. Elf Mitton asked for used books for the Book Sale portion of the Fall Plant Sale. These can be brought to the Garden beginning Monday, October 10. Garden-related items for the Botanic Attic can also be donated beginning that Monday. Persons donating their own succulents should pre-price their donations.

Stacy Fattaleh stated that setup for the Fall Plant Sale will begin Monday, October 10. Persons who wish to be logged in for the 20-hours of service benefits need to sign in each day. Everyone else does not need to sign in. (Members who worked on Fall Plant Sale activities prior to the setup week can also use those hours toward to 20 hour requirement.) She also said that Fall Plant Sale T-shirts continue to be available.

Volunteers are still needed for the weekend activities as well as setup. Volunteers are also needed in the Welcome Center for the weekend.

**Volunteer Signups:** In addition to the Fall Plant Sale, volunteers signup sheets were available for the Cactus and Succulent Show held October 22-23, the Family Fall Festival held October 29, and the Garden of Lights held December 3-23.

**Docents-in-Training:** Members of the new DIT class, which began in September, were introduced at the meeting.

### **Committee Reports**

**Tour Guides:** This group will meet Thursday, October 20 at 10 am in the Larabee House. No program is planned for this meeting. The November meeting will feature gardener Jeremy Bugarchich discussing the Rare Fruit Garden.

**Trip Trio:** This group will meet November 18, but the destination is a surprise. This destination will be local. The group will meet as usual at the garden to carpool at 9:30 am.

Carol Eblen stated that there are new tour limits of 30 persons per tour and everyone must be at the previous general meeting to sign up. She asked everyone to be sure that they can make the trip on the specified date and have enough time to stay for the whole outing.

**Book Buddies:** Barbara Farley announced that this group will meet on October 19, a week later than the usual meeting because of the Fall Plant Sale. The group will meet in the Lawn House at 10 am. *Elephant Company* by Vicki Constantine Croke is the selection. Members are asked to bring suggestions for book selections for 2017.

**Directory:** Susan Starr presented a page of updates for inclusion in members' *2016 Docent and Volunteer Information Directory*. Additional updates and changes can be sent to Susan at susanstarr1@gmail.com

**Free Tuesdays:** Rosemary Stafford stated that there have been fewer problems with visitors endangering plantings. Help is currently needed for the overlook garden. Rosemary thanked all the regular volunteers who help on this day.

**Garden Beautification:** On October 8 volunteers will work in the Tropical Garden under the leadership of June Andersen. There will be no meetings of Beautification teams for the remainder of October because of special garden events.

**Volunteer Orientation:** There will be a Volunteer Orientation on November 12. This will be the last meeting chaired by Margaret and Peter Jones. Jill Gardner, SDBG's new Volunteer Coordinator will take over beginning with the next session.

**Milestones:** Sue Ruddick announced that six additional docents have reached the 90-hour milestone, six docents have achieved 200 hours and two have achieved 400 hours. Fran Spath announced that three volunteers have achieved 90 hours and one additional volunteer has reached 200 hours.

**Special Events:** Mary Roper reported that there will be a meeting on November 4 for members interested in helping with children's field trips. Interested members should meet in front of the Gift Shop at 10 am.

Also on the calendar is a meeting for all persons interested in helping with crafts during the Garden of Lights. This meeting is Thursday, October 27 in the Ecke Building at 10 am. Volunteers will help with preparation for the children's art projects

**Plant of the Month:** Paul Redeker introduced *Ruttya fruiticosa*, also called rabbit ears or hummingbird plant as the October Plant of the Month

**DITs:** Liz Woodward has six certificates for persons who have recently become docents. She would like to give them to their rightful owners. Also let Liz know if you have recently finished all the docent training requirements.

**Docents at Large:** The new Docents at Large are Stacy Fattaleh and Susan Gjerset. Members should take issues to them for presentation at the Docent Executive Board meetings.

**Docent of the Month:** Susan Gjerset introduced Steve Chatelain as the October Docent of the Month.

**Hospitality:** A new chairperson is needed for the hospitality duties. Anyone interest should contact Jane Hunt or Mary Friestedt.

## **Staff Reports**

**President:** Julian Duval invited everyone to enjoy the botanical drawings exhibit currently in the Ecke building.

Naming tiles being sold as part of the fundraising for the Dickinson Family Education Conservatory are now available for purchase. Julian noted that only \$450,000 remain to be raised to go forward with this building project. It is hoped that the facility will be open by summer of 2017.

Julian also announced that more than 100 nurseries donated plants to this year's Fall Plant Sale.

A fifth trip to Baja California is being planned for March/April 2017. This trip will be led by Peter and Margaret Jones.

Julian thanked Peter and Margaret for seven years of service to the Garden and announced that they have been nominated for the North County Philanthropic Council Volunteers of the Year award.

**Operations:** Ian Cole introduced Jill Gardner who fills the new Volunteer Coordinator position for SDBG. Jill thanked everyone for a warm welcome.

Ian also stated that SDBG has full- and part-time positions for college-age young people and asked members to spread the word and direct interested people to the SDBG website.

**Development:** Director of Development Carolyn Zollars thanked everyone for their help with the Gala in the Garden and stated that more than \$200,000 were raised at this event.

**Education & Events:** Sam Beukema stated that the Garden of Lights festival in December has more than 650 volunteer positions to fill. He encouraged everyone to sign up to help during this event.

**SOW & HGC:** Susanne Brueckner thanked everyone who helped during the Octoberfest event. She announced that the Fall Family Festival still needs a few more volunteers.

**Program:** SDBG's new Director of Operations Ian Cole spoke about Maui's Kahanu Garden, part of the National Tropical Botanical Gardens and his experiences as its director.

Respectfully submitted,

Nan Criqui, Secretary