

San Diego Botanic Garden Docent-Volunteer Meeting February 7, 2018

9:30 Call to order and Pledge of Allegiance

Plant of the Month – Tony Gurnoe introduced Elias Potashov, who recently joined the gardening staff. Robert Kopfstein described the bromeliads he donated for this month's raffle to highlight the World Bromeliad Conference. Conference will be held in San Diego this year, from May 29 to June 3. Plant of the month is *Canarina canariensis*, the Canary Island Bellflower.

Early Bird and Overflow Parking Drawing

January Minutes - approved as distributed.

Treasurer's Report – Tandy Pfost. Balance at end of January was \$2822

Dates to Remember – See back page and Garden website for complete listing

Directory – Linda Stewart. Distributed a draft directory and asked for changes. There will also be an email call for changes after the meeting.

Gala Report – Doreen Prager. Showed a video of last year's Gala. Sue Hilton and Linda Cooper, co-chairs of the Cuisine Committee, thanked those who helped last year with Cuisine. They expect next year to be bigger because Gala will be honoring Julian Duval. We will need more restaurants and caterers; suggestions are welcome as are more committee members. Next Gala Committee meeting is March 8 at 9:30 a.m.

Coordinator and Committee Reports

Docent Training – Liz Woodward. Master Gardeners Spring Seminar is March 17. 17 people in current DIT class. If you want to attend a DIT class for a refresher, please email Liz in advance to be sure there is space for you; schedule is on the website. Congratulations to new Docents: Nathalie Davis, Sue Reel, Terry Sterling, Liz Tesolin, JoLynn Morice, and Jan Westman.

Tour Guides – Greg Hunter and Mike Blanco: Next meeting is Thurs., Feb. 8 at 10 AM in Ecke. Everyone invited. If you want to shadow a tour guide, just show up; no need to sign up in advance.

Botanic Book Buddies – Barb Farley. Reading *Tea Girl of Hummingbird Lane* at noon next Wednesday.

Free Tuesdays – Barb Farley. Thanks to all those who worked yesterday. Sign up for next month.

Garden Beautification- Mary Friestedt thanked Sally Sandler, who is stepping down as a co-chair of Garden Beautification. Sally started the program and has been leading it for ten years. Faith Meakin will be taking her spot, co-chairing with Barry Martin. Shari Harrold has stepped down from the Mexican Garden and Susan Starr from South Africa. New team leaders: Dennis Pilien, Native Plants/Native People; Will and Sally Willis and Anna Drelinger, Mexican Garden; Beverly Marshall, Mediterranean Garden; Tim Jara, Blue Lot. Sally Sandler will continue maintaining the Larabee beds as well as coordinating the History team with Dave Ehrlinger and Stacy Fattaleh. Garden beautification dates are posted on sdbgdocents.org in the Calendars section. Use Sign up Genius to sign up to be a Beautification team captain or a regular volunteer.

Milestones – Sue Ruddick and Fran Spath. As of last week had recorded 32,259 Docent hours and 12,075 volunteer hours for 2017. Docent hours for 2017 are now closed;

volunteer hours will close in 2 weeks. Please let Fran know of any additional volunteer hours for 2017.

History - Stacy Fattaleh. Julia von Preissig. Liaison between San Diego County and Quail Gardens Foundation in the 1960's. President of the Foundation from 1967 to her death in 1973. She was a driving force in the evolution of the property from a park devoted to preservation of quail to a botanic garden.

Docents-at-Large – Stacy Fattaleh and Susan Gjerset. Nothing to report.

Volunteer of the Month – Maxine Hesse, introduced by Stacy Fattaleh.

Trip Trio – Peggy Overland – Next tour is Tuesday, Feb 27, to Escondido to visit a container garden/nursery recommended by Julian. Leave SDBG at 9:30. Prior to visiting the garden/nursery, there will be a tour of Queen Califia's Magical Circle. Lunch afterwards

Staff Reports

Jill Gardner - Deb Thompson reminds everyone that retaining docent status depends on being an SDBG member. Be sure to renew. Recruitment of new Director of Operations is in process. Pat Hammer is back part-time, filling in as needed. Please drive carts and cars slowly in the Garden.

Sam Beukema - Paw Walk, Spring Planting Jubilee, Art Fest, and Chocolate Festival coming up.

Carolyn Zollars - Raised more than \$75,000 through the Annual Appeal. Thanks to help from Mary Friestedt, Garden is receiving a \$100,000 grant from the Zable Foundation for the Conservatory. Distributed *Year in Review* (also on web site).

Lisa Reynolds – Asked attendees to post flyers for Paw Walk. Facebook is changing how posts are shared; email will be sent explaining how to see and share SDBG posts in the future.

Stephanie Wilson - Lead for Art Fest; send her any suggestions for artists

Old and New Business

Bill Rawlings – Work on Seeds of Wonder playhouse is continuing. Hope to have it finished by next Docent/Volunteer meeting.

Mary Friestedt - Baobab sculpture to start soon. John Griffiths, Allan Dodds and Mary will oversee the project. Please save April 5 at 2:30 for our Celebration of Peter Jones.

Stacy Fattaleh – Hope to have a plant sale before and after next month's meeting to sell excess plants from Propagation.

Candy Sharda - San Dieguito Garden Club meets in Ecke on the 4th Wednesday of the month. Allan Dodds is this month's speaker; he will talk about how plant diseases have infected human beings. 11:00 a.m. on February 28.

Susan Gjerset - Need additional volunteers for Wednesday Garden Beautification's bamboo team.

Adjourned 10:46 a.m. Respectfully submitted, Susan Starr, Secretary.

Program: Mike Blanco, Lan Lin, and Mary Friestedt on the healing powers of some amazing herbs.