

## SDBG Docent-Volunteer Meeting Minutes

### May 1, 2019

#### 9.30 am. Call to Order and Pledge

#### Announcements

**Susan Starr**- Vice Chair. A reminder that there are nomination forms for VOM on the back table, in the office and on the website. To continue to receive Garden emails, let Nick Ruddick know if your email address changes.

**Ari Novy** - Changes in the organizational structure of the Garden include the following: The Membership team will become part of Visitor Services Dept. under Michael Fisher, combining with the Welcome Center staff and Gift Shop staff. Ari will take over Development activities, and has appointed Brandi Eide as the new Managing Director. Brandi will take on the day to day management of the Garden when she arrives in June. Brandi has horticulture background, coming from the Springs Preserve Botanical Garden in Las Vegas. Gala news: Jim Ruecker and René van Rems will be involved, along with outside contractors, in managing the event. Gala Cuisine and Silent Auction committees will still be involved. Lita Dantes, Wedding Site Manager, will help manage Development Events, excluding the Gala. Conservatory news: the chandeliers are being worked on now. There are currently 5 commercial organizations working on fire, water, rating/building permits and inspections. More announcements coming!

**Plant of the Month.** Jeremy introduced the plant of the month, *Puya alpestris* (Sapphire Tower). It is native to Chile, can flower annually and is monocarpic. Flower spikes are up to 4-5 ft. tall. Tony was on KUSI this morning talking about the Sapphire Tower.

#### **Early Bird and Overflow Parking Drawings**

**April Minutes** - Linda Cooper Secretary. The minutes are approved as distributed.

**Treasurer's Report** - Gail Earnest. We are losing money on refreshments, please remember to donate. April starting balance was \$3,266.14, ending with \$3389.43.

**Dates to Remember** - See back page and Garden Website for current listings

**Volunteer of the Month** - Marilyn Chambers was introduced by Shahla Dreyer. Marilyn is from South Dakota, has lived in 7 states, was a legal secretary and owned a business. She moved here in 2015 and became a docent in 2017. Her love of gardening was inspired by her grandmother, a Master Gardener in Colorado. Marilyn loves the Fall Plant sale and working in Propagation.

**Opportunity Drawing** - Ed Beimel and Dianna Burke.

**Coordinator and Committee Reports** Susan Starr, Vice Chair

**Docent Training** - Liz Woodward. Liz introduced three new Docents, Lise Shanahan, Tom Applegate and Dan Peterson. The last Docent class is tomorrow. They will visit the Conservatory with Tony Gurnoe and Hamilton Garden with Suzanne Brueckner. GB team leaders will introduce their gardens.

**Tour Guides** - Mike Blanco. The next meeting will be on May 9 at 10 AM in Ecke. Following the business meeting, we will walk in the Garden with Julian Duval who will share plant stories and his experiences. Saturdays have been very busy and are currently using 2 tour guides. Still welcome more tour guides.

**Garden Beautification** - Faith Meakin, Anna Dreiling, and Barry Martin. Faith and Anna are reorganizing GB. Anna will take over Faith's job for Saturday GB. She will be trying to encourage

more participation. Faith will work more with team leaders. This coming Sat will be in Hamilton Children's Garden. Need Team Leaders for 4 gardens; Australia, Native Plants & People, Incredible Edibles and the South African Garden. Schedules for GB are on the Website. There will be no GB Sat the 11th because of the Chocolate Festival.

**Botanic Book Buddies** - Barb Farley. No meeting in May. The book for June is *The Forest Unseen* by David George Haskell. All are welcome.

**Free Tuesday** - Barb Farley. Need 2 people in Hamilton for the afternoon for free Tuesday.

**Trip Trio** - No announcement this month.

**Docents at Large** - Shahla Dreyer. Let Shahla or Liz Tesolin know if you have questions or ideas and they will get them to the right person.

**Milestones** - Sue Ruddick and Fran Spath. See back page. Sue congratulated two Docents who have reached 2,000 Lifetime hours - Jane Hunt and Kathy Duval. Fran has name tags for new Volunteers to pick up. Thanks for everyone's hard work. Hours are used by the Garden when applying for Grants from the County. Milestone Award envelopes are on the front table.

**SDBG Fair Exhibit** - Robert Kopfstein. Fair dates are May 31st through July 4th. Need volunteers for Wednesday through Sunday for the 2 Garden exhibits. Shifts are 11 to 1 and 1 to 3. Parking available at the Horse Park (\$5) or at Mira Costa College for free. Fair workers receive 2 free tickets, pick up at Will Call. Both exhibits, the 360 degree cycads and Asian plants, and the Dibble house, need 4 people per shift per day. Still looking for a small to medium size dog house donation and someone to consult with on a water feature. The setup will start on May 6th through the 21st. Sign ups are on the website.

**Staff Reports** **Jill Gardner.** Jill's office is now in Ecke. San Dieguito Garden Club has flyers in the back of the room.

Lisa Reynolds - Publicity. KUSI was at the Garden this morning for the *Puya alpestris* bloom. Will send a link to view online. USA Today Best 10 Gardens in North America will be announced early Friday. (Spoiler alert-we came in 9th!) Chocolate Festival flyer ready to pass out. The Misti Washington show is this weekend. On May 10th, KFMB Channel 8 will be doing a shoot for the Chocolate Festival for the 7 or 8 AM news.

### **Other Business**

**Reminder:** June meeting will be our fabulous pot-luck. Meeting starts at **10:00 a.m.**

**Break for Refreshments** Lucille Brown and Lin Holzinger.

**Speaker Program** Tony Gurnoe, Director of Horticulture, will be introduced by Kathryn Blankinship. Tony will speak on SDBG's Conservation Program and other developments.

**Meeting Adjourned** at 11:01 AM

Respectfully Submitted by Linda Cooper, Secretary