

**SDBG Docent-Volunteer Meeting Minutes**  
**October 2, 2019**

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

**Announcements** - Allan Dodds, Chair. ½ price Holiday Memberships will be on sale at the Nov. 6th General Meeting. VOM nominations for next year are appreciated.

**Plant of the Month.** John Clements introduced the plant of the month, Vachellia sp., the red acacia, or African Thorn tree. It is native to areas of Africa and the Middle East.

**Plant of the Month** - Introduced by Jeremy. Raffle plants are all from our Propagation Nursery.

**Early Bird and Overflow Parking Drawings** - Dianna Burke.

**September Minutes** - Linda Cooper, Secretary. Minutes approved as distributed.

**Treasurer's Report** - Gail Earnest. The month started with \$3,856 and ended with \$3976.95 after refreshment expenses.

**Update from the Board of Trustees.** Marjorie Fox and Mark Dowling (Docents and members of the Board of Trustees) reviewed changes that have been made in the structure of the Board of Trustees in order to be compliant with best practices for Boards of non-profits. The Executive Committee was restructured and the ex-officio positions on the Board of the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Docent Society were eliminated. Mark is chair of the Finance Committee and has been on the Board since 2017. He explained it is the responsibility of the Board to make sure the Garden is managed well and is fiscally responsible.

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

**Volunteer of the Month** - Shahla Dreyer and Liz Tesolin. Liz introduced Charlene Evans who is from the Bay area. Charlene has been married for 42 years and has three grandchildren. Before coming to the Botanic Garden in 2017, she was in pharmaceutical sales. She volunteers in the Mexican Garden, Old and New World Gardens, Garden of Lights and Fall Plant Sale.

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

**Coordinator and Committee Reports** - Susan Starr, Vice-Chair. Flyers were distributed for UCCE Master Gardener Monarch Butterfly Garden Survey.

**Special Events.** See the main Garden website for dates.

**Docent Training** - Liz Woodward and Jeff Clingan. Jeff: The 4th session for the current DIT class is tomorrow. Oct 3. Classes are going well. Liz: Name badges available for eligible DITs.

**Tour Guides** - Mike Blanco. Next tour guide meeting is October 10 in Ecke at 10 AM. Stacy Fattaleh will discuss some plants that will be available from propagation at the Fall Plant Sale.

**Garden Beautification** - Faith Meakin, Anna Dreilinger, and Barry Martin.

Anna: Correction of a Saturday date on the Agenda from Oct 14th to the 12th.

Faith: There has been an interest in creating a Rain Forest team. Contact Faith if interested. There is also consideration of having special garden work teams on Wednesdays for those gardens that do not have a regular team. Overlook Succulent garden is moving along well with new leaders.

Saturday, October 5: Subtropical Fruit Garden - Anna Dreilinger

Saturday, October 12: Bamboo Garden - Barry Martin and Mary Cozza

Saturday, October 19: No gardening (Fall Plant Sale)

Saturday, October 26: Australian Garden - Priscilla Edwards

**Fall Plant Sale** - October 19 and 20. Stacy Fattaleh. Thank you to those working on the Fall Plant Sale since April. More help is still needed. All volunteers are encouraged to work. When donations come in specific procedures need to be followed. It is really important to keep donations separated. Botanic Attic donations can be given to Alice Pratt, Nancy McMahon or Dianna Burke. Still need several days of lunch for volunteers. Those with food sensitivities, please bring your own lunch. Please check in at the front table upon arrival.

Carol Eblen, boxes are still needed for Plant Holding. No Book Sale or Bake Sale this year.

**Botanic Book Buddies** - Barb Farley. They will be picking books to read next year on Wednesday, October 9th. Books relating to nature will be chosen.

**Free Tuesday** - Barb Farley. The last Free Tuesday worked fine, with mostly adults.

**Trip Trio** - Carol Eblen, Evon MacKinnon, and Peggy Overland. Carol, great Friday the 13th tour. No trips planned for now. Will announce future trips at the next meeting.

**Docents at Large** - Shahla Dreyer and Liz Tesolin. Shahla. Suggestions needed for spending Docent funded projects. Previous items have included wagons, aprons, etc.

**Milestones** - Sue Ruddick and Fran Spath. Milestones listed on the back of Agenda. No Volunteer Milestones this month. Volunteer name tags available to be picked up.

Nick reported 48,055 hours to date for the fiscal calendar year. There are 350 people now on Google Groups.

### **Staff Reports** - Jill Gardner.

Caren Clayton for Education and Events programs - Adult Classes are listed in Quail Tracks and on the main Garden website.

Jill - Correction on back of agenda - Holiday Nights in The Garden should read Botanic Wonderland.

A reminder to all, when arriving at the Garden, to please use the 'in' lane, not the exit, when entering.

Eric Evans has been hired as the new Visitor Services Associate. There are final interviews next week for Education Manager. Also hiring a new part-time gardener as well as a new Facilities Technician who will be working primarily in the Dickinson Family Education Conservatory.

Recap of Gala numbers. All of the goals set for the Gala were realized. There were 450 guests in attendance. Fund-a-Need for the Pacific Promenade netted \$75,000 to date, with money still coming in. Another \$108,000 beyond Fund a Need was raised for a total net profit to date of \$183,000.

Tony - Tony has been collecting new plant material/seeds to enhance our collections. If you would like to help, please let him know.

The next Garden education program will be Oct 16 at 8.30am, on the basics of pruning. Location to be determined.

Robert Kopfstein - The theme for the San Diego County Fair next year is 'Super Heroes'. Robert's idea for the Garden display is 'Super Heroes in Horticulture' honoring Bill Teague for his work in the Garden and the community.

**Other Business-** Allan. Leonard Burkhard will be the speaker following the break.

**Break for Refreshments** Lucille Brown and Leslie Duval

**Speaker Program** Leonard Burkhard, Ph.D., Diagnosing tree problems. Introduced by Kathryn Blankinship.

**Meeting Adjourned** at 11:14am.

**Submitted by Linda Cooper, Secretary**