

SDBG Docent-Volunteer Meeting Minutes
November 6th, 2019

9.30 am. Arts and Crafts Tables Open for Sales

10.00 am. Call to Order and Pledge

Announcements Allan Dodds, Chair. Please refer names for VOM.

The Docent Executive Board held a meeting to appoint a Sub-Committee. The charge is "What steps can the Docent Society take to assure that all volunteers feel welcomed and valued by the Society and the Garden."

Susan Starr (Vice-Chair of the Docent Society), will Chair. Membership will consist of three Docents and three Volunteers. They will give a final report at the March 2020 General meeting. The January meeting will be January 8th instead of January 1st. There will be no D&V meeting in December.

Allan thanked Docent board for their hard work on behalf of the society this year. As well as the volunteers.

Plant of the Month. John Clements for Tony. The plant is *Vanilla imperialis*, Vanilla orchid. Requires a greenhouse to keep hot and humid. There are vanilla plants in the Conservatory. The Garden really needs Volunteers to help with work in the Conservatory. The project will be directed by Tony, so please see him if interested. Tony reviewed the seed-based projects being done around the Garden involving little nylon bags. Please do not remove them. Also, a reminder to all volunteers to let one of the horticultural staff know if you see anything that seems out of place in the Garden.

Early Bird and Overflow Parking Drawings - Ed Beime

October Minutes - Linda Cooper - Secretary. Minutes were approved as distributed.

Treasurer's Report - Gail Earnest. Ending balance \$4,111.00 for October.

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

Volunteer of the Month - Shahla Dreyer. Shahla introduced Leslie Jones who was born in Canada and later moved to Orange County. She and her husband have a son and a daughter. Leslie previously worked as a personal stylist. Leslie joined the Garden in 2017 and enjoys working in the Old and New Garden. Inspired by her late father, Leslie started her own plant collections. Leslie also enjoys participating in the Plant Sale and Propagation.

Opportunity Drawing - No drawing this month.

Coordinator and Committee Reports Susan Starr, Vice-Chair. Allan in for Susan.

Special Event. Botanic Wonderland. Susanne Brueckner.

Susanne gave an overview of the new event, Botanic Wonderland. Dates have changed for this year, please see sign up. It will be held in and around the Conservatory and Hamilton Garden area. There will be two entrances, and guests may walk or shuttle to the event area. Tickets are for the event only and do not include Garden entrance. Event features include a musical light show, snow making machine, a face painter, Santa and kids activities, food trucks, gift vendors and more! There will be a second beer and wine outdoor area along with coffee and hot chocolate and a picnic area. Admission tickets will be \$20 for weekdays and \$25 for weekends. Members' price will be half-off for the event.

Snow Princess scheduled for after Christmas. Crafts and Tony's Tree House will be open.

See the Garden Website for dates and information.

In the Conservatory and amphitheater, there will be a Poinsettia exhibit, entertainment, along with wine, beer and mulled wine.

Parking: There are 4 entrances consisting of, the main lot, overflow, Hamilton's children and Heritage parking lot. Lyft or Uber are encouraged. Shuttle service available for those who need it. Plenty of volunteer opportunities are available. Volunteer training sign-ups on the Website. All volunteers must take a training session.

Docent Training - Liz Woodward and Jeff Clingan - Jeff introduced new Docent, Karen Potter.

Tour Guides - Mike Blanco. The next tour guide meeting will be at 10 AM, November 14. The program will include a walk through the Garden with Horticulture Manager, John Clements On December 12, the meeting will be a Potluck beginning at 11 AM in Ecke. The theme is food inspired by plants in the Garden.

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

Vacancy in the Lawn house garden. Faith will step down after the first of the year.

All dates are from 9 A.M. to noon

Saturday, November 2: Bamboo Garden - Barry Martin and Mary Cozza

Saturday, November 9: Subtropical Fruit Garden - Anna Dreilinger

Saturday, November 16: Australian Garden - Priscilla Edwards

Saturday, November 23: Himalayan Garden - Anna Dreilinger

Saturday, November 30: no gardening (Thanksgiving weekend)

Fall Plant Sale - Stacy Fattaleh and Alison Hiers. Stacy, Thanks to all for the hard work on the Plant Sale, a \$54,000 new profit! Stacey would like some of the funds from the Docent Society to be used for the purchase of Garden t-shirts for next year.

Alison thanked everyone for their donations of fruit, jars and fabrics for the jams and jellies and announced that this will be the last year she will be doing jams and jellies at the Garden Plant Sale.

Botanic Book Buddies - Barb Farley. It was a calm Free Tuesday, with mostly adults. The Larabee House is open on Free Tuesdays.

Free Tuesday - Barb Farley - Book is The Plant Messiah by Carlos Magdalena. The next meeting is on the second Wednesday of December at noon in the Ecke building.

Joan Gooft for Pat Linton - Joan reported that over 1,000 visitors have come through Larabee house so far this year on Free Tuesdays.

Trip Trio - Carol Eblen, Evon MacKinnon, and Peggy Overland. Carol. No report.

Docents at Large - Shahla Dreyer and Liz Tesolin - Shahla relayed updates on suggestions from last meeting on purchases of items with Society funds. There were many good suggestions, now working to see what is feasible money-wise, etc. Will discuss further at the next Docent Executive Board meeting.

Milestones - Sue Ruddick and Fran Spath. Sue announced three 2,000 Lifetime hour recognitions, Patti Fitchen, here since 2012, Charlie Garren since 2010 and Alison Hiers since 2009. Fran, reminded members to record their hours before the end of the year.

Staff Reports - Jill Gardner. Two new staff members have been hired. Lane Kiefaber for Director of Philanthropy and Strategic Initiatives and Sarah Sickler for Education Manager. Additional positions to be filled will be 3 assistants for Botanic Wonderland parking, 2 or 3 assistants for Visitor Services for the Welcome Center, 2 garden and one new accounting position. Jill's office is now in the Ecke Conference Room. Volunteer training sessions are being scheduled for Botanic Wonderland. All volunteers for the event must attend one. Tony will hold a Garden Education Class on Wednesday, November 20, 8:30 to 9:30 am in the Ecke Building. The topic will be California Natives.

Other Business - Mike Blanco, The next Tour Guide meeting is a group potluck, open to all who are interested. Please bring a Garden inspired dish.

Member Potluck following the meeting.

Meeting Adjourned at 11:14 am.

Linda Cooper - Secretary