

**SDBG Docent-Volunteer Meeting Minutes**  
**November 4, 2020**

**10:00 a.m. Call to order. Susan Starr, Chair**

**Approval of Minutes - Linda Cooper, Secretary.** Minutes of the October 7 meeting were approved as posted.

**Treasurer's Report - Gail Earnest, Treasurer.** The balance in the treasury is \$2,356.17.

**Volunteer Updates - Jill Gardner, Director HR and Volunteer Programs.** A new department at the Garden has been created. Tony Gurnoe is now the Director of the Conservation Horticulture Department. He will be assisted by Rachel Sadowski as a Conservation Horticulturist. Jeremy Bugarchich, will also be part of the Department as Curator of Plant Collections. The Horticulture Program continues to be managed by John Clements. Caren Clayton has moved to the Visitor Services Department as Programs Coordinator. Tiona Lyons-King was hired as a new Visitor Services Associate in the Welcome Center. Sales for SDBG Garden Vests for Volunteers have been strong and can still be ordered. Lighting for Botanic Wonderland is being set up throughout areas of the Garden. There will be no interactive children's activities at this years event.

**Josh Pinpin - Membership Coordinator.** Josh announced the annual Half-Price Holiday Sale, which allows Volunteers and Docents of the Garden to purchase half-priced memberships for friends and family. These must be purchased either in person from the Membership Department or over the phone with either Josh or Wendy. The sale will cover only the Basic Level of membership. Family certificates are available at \$42.50, Individual certificates at \$27.50, and add-on of an Extra Adult/Caregiver Card at \$20.00. This sale cannot be used to renew your own membership. There are two new rules: You must have an active membership yourself to purchase and you may only purchase up to 10 discounted memberships this season.

**Old Business - Susan Starr, Chair**

**Election of officers – Mary Friestedt, Nominating Committee Chair.** Mary introduced the proposed slate of Docent Society Officers for 2021:

Chair, Susan Starr

Vice Chair, Jeff Clingan

Treasurer, Gail Earnest

Secretary, Donna Cancel

Susan Starr called for a voice vote. The proposed slate passed.

**Remembering Thelma Montag – Susan Starr, Chair.** Thelma, who passed away at 96 in October, was a 38-year active Docent at the Garden (the longest serving Docent), Volunteer of the Month (October 2001) and was honored along with her husband Dave as Volunteer of the Year by the City of Encinitas (2003). She was an enthusiastic supporter of the Garden. Thelma served as a

Quail Gardens Trustee and worked at the Garden Gift Shop since it opened. There she could interact with the many visitors from all parts of the globe. She chaired the Bake Sale for a number of years and worked with the children's craft activities at the Garden of Lights. Among those remembering her today were Julian Duval, former CEO, Heidi Welsh her daughter, Helen Montag, daughter in law, along with several SDBG Volunteers. Thelma was a great inspiration at the Garden to all who knew her!

**Door Prize Drawing – Liz Rozycki.** Four plants were selected and presented by Liz. Winners were chosen by a drawing. They will be available for pick up at the Admissions Booth at the Conservatory.

**Reports - Jeff Clingan, Vice Chair.**

**Volunteer of the Month -** JoLynn Morice was introduced by Liz Tesolin. JoLynn is from Illinois, married and has 2 children. She has a BA in Computer Science and later studied horticulture at Mira Costa College and then received her GIS certificate for computer mapping at Palomar College. Since joining the Garden in 2017 and becoming a Docent, she has made significant contributions to the Garden helping Jeremy Bugarchich update the Garden and Conservatory maps.

**Coordinator Reports - Jeff Clingan, Vice-Chair.**

- **Docents in Training – Jeff Clingan.** The classes have been completed and Jeff expressed his thanks to the instructors. He introduced six from the class who have completed their hours to become Docents.
- **Milestones - Sue Ruddick and Fran Spath.** Sue announced the following Docent Milestones: 14 90 hours, one 200 hour and one 400-hour award. Vann Parker was recognized for achieving the 2,000 Hour Lifetime Achievement Award.
- **Trip Trio – Carol Eblen.** The Trip Trio group, Carol, Evon MacKinnon and Peggy Overland, will be retiring after 16 years of arranging approximately 100 garden tour-lunch tours. As a thank you, they will be receiving a gift certificate to a local restaurant.
- **Botanic Book Buddies - Barb Farley.** The next meeting will be November the 9th at 11:30 via Zoom. The book is 'Hippie Food' by Jonathan Kauffman, inspired by the counterculture of the 60's and 70's and the impact on American food and cooking.
- **Docents at Large - Shahla Dreyer and Liz Tesolin.** Shahla congratulated new VOM JoLynn Morice, who will be mailed a certificate and gift.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Program:** Tony Gurnoe and Jeremy Bugarchich spoke about the GIS Mapping project at SDBG as well as other San Diego sites. Introduced by Kathryn Blankinship.

**Meeting Adjourned at 12 Noon.**

**Linda Cooper, Secretary**