

**SDBG Docent and Volunteer Meeting Minutes**  
**January 6, 2021**

**Meeting Began at 10:00 a.m. - Jill Gardner, Director of HR & Volunteer Programs**

Jill recognized the accomplishments of Susan Starr and Linda Cooper as they step down from their Docent Executive Board roles. She also thanked the membership for submitting questions to her and Ari Novy regarding the recent changes to the Docent and Volunteer Program.

**Approval of Minutes – Linda Cooper, Secretary**

Minutes of the November 4, 2020 meeting were approved as posted.

**Treasurer's Report – Gail Earnest, Treasurer**

The balance in the treasury is \$2,356.17.

**Docent-Volunteer Program Update – Ari Novy, President and CEO**

Referencing several December and January email communications, and in response to questions submitted in advance by the members, Ari discussed the recent administrative changes affecting Docents and Volunteers. Effective 12/22/20, the Docent and Volunteer Society evolved into the Docent and Volunteer Program of the San Diego Botanic Garden. All Docent and Volunteer Society rules, regulations and governing documents are replaced by the SDBG Docent and Volunteer Program Manual. A Docent and Volunteer Advisory Council has been created to help guide the program and Jill Gardner will serve as the staff member responsible for the Program and will be a member of the Advisory Council. All members of the previous Docent and Volunteer Society Executive Board have been invited to join the Council. Ari wants to preserve the skills, knowledge and contributions of the Docents and Volunteers and continue to have a collaborative relationship. The Advisory Council will meet later this month and will carefully review and provide feedback on the new Program Manual. Ari addressed a number of new questions submitted during the meeting.

**Garden Update – Brandi Eide, Managing Director**

Brandi presented a "Year in Review" PowerPoint presentation, with photographs showing the completion of many construction projects, including the creation of a new children's play area, Botanic Wonderland, etc.

**Coordinator Reports – Jeff Clingan, Vice Chair, Docent and Volunteer Program**

**Docent Training Completion – Jeff Clingan introduced eight new Docents: Linda Beliveau, Lupita Castro-Zuniga, Nancy Cogswell, Cecilia Jolly, Paula Jones, Jill Lingnell, Allison Smiley and Rita Svec.**

**Volunteer of the Month – Linda Bergquist was introduced by Shahla Dreyer.** Linda was a Master Gardener in both Connecticut and Washington State before moving back to San Diego and joining the Garden as a Docent in 2017. She has worked in Propagation, the Plant Shop and on the Collections Team. She enjoys the peaceful nature of the Garden.

**Plant Drawing – Liz Rozycki**

**Milestones – Sue Ruddick and Fran Spath**

**Tour Guides – Alice Keener** is the new Coordinator and thanked Mike Blanco for all he accomplished. Virtual tours have been created by several of our Docents/Volunteers.

**Botanic Book Buddies – Barb Farley.** February 8, 11:30 a.m. Zoom meeting. Will discuss Forgotten Peninsula by Joseph Wood Krutch.

**Docents at Large – Shahla Dreyer** shared positive feedback regarding Botanic Wonderland.

**Program: Andy Cuffel** spoke on the topic of Tillandsia plants. He was introduced by Kathryn Blankinship.

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**Meeting concluded at 12 Noon.**

**Donna Cancel, Secretary**