



## San Diego Floral Association Newsletter - Fall 2024

### President's Message

Welcome to our new newsletter format! Since the versatile and talented Kathy Esty retired from the board in June, we are lucky to have Dolores Davies Jamison as our new newsletter editor. A retired communications professional, Dolores will be helping San Diego Floral Association navigate through some of the challenges of communicating with our members and potential members in a strategic way. In her role as Communications Officer, she will be taking over some of the communications and outreach duties that Kathy performed as Recording Secretary. We are lucky to have such an experienced writer and editor at the helm. Watch this space!

We've tried a lot of new things in October, and this year is no different. Kathy Esty first had the vision of a Haunted Garden Tour and Family Fair to supplement our summer garden tour, which was hosted by Mission Hills Nursery in 2017. Kathy and her sister, Abby Esty, brought the October event back to Balboa Park with the eco fair they created, Birds, Bees, Flowers and Trees which spilled out onto the Prado. Without the indefatigable energy and imagination of the Estys, we are scaling back this year and hosting a founders day celebration--A Day in the Park-- in honor of our SDFA founders, Kate Sessions and A. D. Robinson.

We have debated for many years whether we could attract a larger audience to our meetings, if we held them at a different time. Our 'spot' is in Casa del Prado, Room 101, on the third Wednesday in February, April, June, and October. On October 19th, we will host a hybrid meeting event--A Day in the Park. If you can't get out of the habit of coming to join us on the third Wednesday, please drop by our class in Room 101 on October 16, or our flower show set-up on October 18. Like Festival of Trees, A Day in the Park will be a four-day effort designed to celebrate our history and connection to Balboa Park through the work of Kate Sessions, A. D. Robinson, and thousands of other members like you, who have helped to build our 117 year history.

Respectfully submitted,  
Suzanne Johnson  
President



### A Day in the Park

Please join us on October 19 as we celebrate our founders--Kate Sessions and A.D. Robinson--with A Day in the Park, featuring a series of historical presentations, guided park walks and tours, a vendor fair, and cake and refreshments.

It will be a busy day in the park. The 6th Avenue approach to Balboa Park will be closed for the annual San Diego Walk to End Alzheimer's--Walk4ALZ-- until 10 a.m., and the Natural History Museum is hosting a very large, day-long event, so please plan your parking strategy ahead of time.

Our first formal presentation will be held in Casa del Prado at 10:45 a.m., with UC ANR describing agritourism in San Diego. Talks at 11:45, 12:45, and 1:45 will feature Kate Sessions (by Nancy Carol Carter), A. D. Robinson (by Lee Somerville), and the renovated Botanical Building (by Vicki Estrada with Balboa Park Forever.)

In between the presentations, the San Diego Floral Association will host special viewings in Room 101 of art and rare horticulture books from the Association's 117 year history. You must sign up in advance for this. Please contact [treasurersdfloral@gmail.com](mailto:treasurersdfloral@gmail.com) for your preferred time slot: 10:15, 11:15, or 12:15. You will be assigned to a group of no more than six people at a time, for a personalized experience.

After cake is served in honor of Kate Session's birthday (November 8, 1857), you can join a docent-led walking tour at 2:30 p.m. from Casa del Prado, Room 101. The first leg of the walk will feature the new native plant garden at the Natural History Museum, the Hummingbird Garden, and the Persian Rug Garden. The second, longer leg of the walk will continue to the Lily Pond Garden, the Alcazar Garden, and the Kate Sessions Cactus Garden.

Vendors will be onsite in Casa del Prado from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., as well as an Art Alive-style flower show, hosted by designers from the Arrangers Guild of San Diego, using vases that have been donated to the SDFA library.

**SDFA programs are free and open to the public.**



## **SDFA Grant Winner's Gardens & New Board Members Feted at Annual Dinner Meeting**

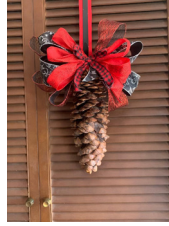
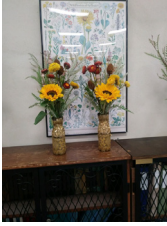
On June 27, San Diego Floral Association held its annual dinner meeting and board elections in the balmy Casa Del Prado courtyard for an alfresco dinner. The event was also held to celebrate SDFA's recent grant winners: Ivey Park Ranch Association, Foster Elementary School, San Carlos Community Gardens, and Bayside Community Center. The Hawaiian-themed dinner—which included SDFA's signature mocktails—was followed by the installation of new SDFA officers, including Carole Leap, who is now the Vice President for Programs, and Lynn Grant, who has taken over as Recording Secretary. Sarah Lydick, who was recognized for her outstanding contributions to recent events, has also joined SDFA as a board director. In addition, Bonnie Hartmeyer was honored as Volunteer of the Year. Mocktails were raised in celebration of our grant winners and our new board members.

### **The SDFA Board for 2024-25 includes:**

Suzanne Johnson – President  
Carolina Leap – 1st VP Programs  
Raynah Shaw – 2nd VP Membership (Interim)  
Lynn Grant – Recording Secretary  
Dolores Davies Jamison – Communications Officer  
Jayne O'Brien – Treasurer

### **Directors:**

John Blocker  
Nancy Carol Carter  
Bonnie Hartmeyer  
Reza Hossieni  
Lynn Langley  
Sarah Lydick  
Dawn Nielsen



## Back to Lifelong Learning: Classes at San Diego Floral Association

**Note: All classes are held in Room 104 at Casa Del Prado in Balboa Park, from 10 a.m. to Noon. For more information and to reserve your spot, please visit: <https://www.sdfloal.org>**

A variety of classes were held by SDFA this summer, ranging from Suzanne Johnson's Sunflower Bouquet Make & Take to Manipulating Plant Material, taught by Dale Rekus. Dale presented a trunk show of dried plant materials and demonstrated which techniques work best when your goal is to dry, bend, paint, wire, or cut foliage for floral competitions or home projects. Suzanne, who also taught a protea doll class, used bedazzled Frappuccino bottles for the sunflower bouquets, which will be used for dried Halloween bouquets at the A Day in the Park event. In September, Carole Leap taught a kokedama class, and demonstrated to students how these intriguing moss balls can be created with various kinds of plants.

It's not too late to register for Carole Leap's Thanksgiving Protea Wreath Make & Take class on Thursday, October 10. Proteas are such an amazing and long-lived flower that they can easily be paired with dried grapevine, fall ribbons, and other decorative materials, and they will still look good on Thanksgiving day.

Other SDFA classes that will be offered in the fall include Suzanne Johnson's Succulent Pumpkins Make & Take on Wednesday, October 16, at a special time (1:00 p.m.) in Casa del Prado, Room 101. Author and succulent expert Debra Lee Baldwin gave a shout-out to Laura Eubanks for inventing the succulent pumpkin. Take a look here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eSr6dol4uQQ>

Dale Rekus will also teach his Creative Line-Mass Floral Design Make & Take class on Monday, October 21. A staple design in judged flower shows, this technique can be easy for novices and challenging for seasoned designers. Dale will provide the containers and the flowers.

SDFA offerings in November will include Suzanne Johnson's Narcissus Pots Make & Take class on Thursday, November 14. Suzanne prefers to nest paper whites in a tall glass container with a bare branch with a bird. This arrangement keeps the growing bulb flowers from toppling.

The last SDFA class of the year—Bedazzled Pine Cones & Hollywood Bows—will also be taught by our talented and industrious president, Suzanne Johnson. Suzanne will hold a bow-tying workshop for spiffing up your wrapped gifts, wreaths, and door hangers. Jayne O'Brien will supply sugar pine cones for this craft-making exercise, a treat to enhance your holiday decor in Southern California. Paired with a layered ribbon bow and a simple hanger, they serve as a striking alternative to a wreath.



## Festival of Trees 2024 to be Held December 6 & 7th With Balboa Park's December Nights

On December 6th and 7th, the San Diego Floral Association will be hosting its popular Festival of Trees exhibit, an integral part of the City of San

Diego's December Nights event at Balboa Park. This year's theme will be Celebrating San Diego's Holiday Traditions.

As part of the Festival, Walter Andersen Nursery—our longtime partner—will be creating a glorious holiday display. We will also be offering stunning protea blooms, holiday crafts and gingerbread cookies for sale. A preview of the exhibit will be held for Floral Association members and Festival participants on December 5th. As we get closer to the date, please check our website for future postings about the Festival of Trees.

While there are still a few trees remaining, we invite and encourage our affiliates to sponsor a tree. Please contact Jayne O'Brien at the email below for more details. We also invite you to be a part of this wonderful San Diego tradition by volunteering. Volunteers for the Festival of Trees exhibit will receive a coveted Balboa Park parking pass, so they can enjoy the other December Nights festivities, before or after their shift. We also need volunteers to assist with event set-up on December 4th and 5th, and teardown on December 8th. If you can help out, please reach out at the email below.

We look forward to seeing you at the Festival of Trees 2024!

Jayne O'Brien - Chair, Festival of Trees 2024

[Treasurersdfloral@gmail.com](mailto:Treasurersdfloral@gmail.com)



## SDFA Del Mar Fair Award Winners

Every year, the San Diego Floral Association gives two cash awards to competitors in the San Diego County Fair Paul Ecke Jr. Flower Show at the Del Mar Fairgrounds in June. This year's awards were generously underwritten by former president and board member, Jayne O'Brien. Several competitors did an admirable job of fitting in with the Fair's 2024 theme—Let's Go Retro.

The SDFA Award—which comes with \$250—is judged by Fair officials, and is presented to the best landscape entry by a non-commercial and non-professional person or group. This year's competitors included prize winner Debby Dunn, James Gooding, Bonita Organic Garden Club, San Diego Bromeliad Society, San Diego Rose Society, San Diego Fern Society and San Diego Vintner's Association.

SDFA also sponsors a \$100 cash prize for the best drought-tolerant garden designed by youth. This year's competitors were Escondido Future Farmers of America (FFA), Scouting America of SD-Imperial Council, San Marcos High School, San Pascual High School, Valley Center High School, and Valley Center Middle School, the prize winner.

If you are interested in judging these awards in the future, please contact SDFA President Suzanne Johnson at [presidentsdfloral@gmail.com](mailto:presidentsdfloral@gmail.com). Judging requires a two-hour commitment, a week or so before the Fair opens in June.

## Volunteer Opportunities

The San Diego Floral Association has a broad range of volunteer opportunities, both for members and non-members. We depend on volunteers to serve as docents during our garden tours, to provide support at our annual meetings and at major events, such as the Festival of Trees exhibition, held in conjunction with Balboa Park's December Nights event. For more information about volunteering opportunities, please contact us at [info@sdfloor.org](mailto:info@sdfloor.org)

## Membership News

The San Diego Floral Association greatly values and depends upon its members, who enjoy six issues per year of our award-winning magazine, *California Garden*, and are encouraged to attend our classes, lectures, meetings, garden tours and signature events. Also, we hope you will consider volunteering to serve on a committee, help staff an event, or help us with gardening activities at Balboa Park. Stop by our Balboa Park office in Casa Del Prado, Room 105, to say hi and introduce yourself. We look forward to meeting you at one of our events, meetings, classes, etc., and are always open to hearing from members about activities and events. Thank you all for your continuing support and interest in S DFA's mission and activities. Our new and renewing members are listed below.

### Renewing Benefactors

Paula Taylor  
Christie Wright  
Edward Underwood

### New Family Members

Kitty & Mark Briej  
Jenny Evans & Tiffany Thompson  
Brad Johnson & Lynn McGrath  
Parker Somes Family  
Cathy Strittmatter & Andrew Guzzon  
Rick Verducci & David Ryan

### New Members

Alvaro Batalla  
Ryan Bedrosian  
Jan Benoit  
Ruta Brazis  
Amanda Campbell  
Terry Drever  
Kate Fries  
Mike Galarneau  
Christine Galligan  
Marlene Garich  
Marylou Gibson  
Terry Hughes  
Linda Johnson  
Terry Hughes  
Linda Johnson  
Elizabeth Madrazo  
Louis Maslow, II  
Magali Porrachia  
Margo Porras  
Sara Prohaska  
Lisa Silva  
Linda Stewart  
Carmen Villegas  
Mike Wheelden  
Marc Wing

### New & Renewing Affiliates

Chula Vista Garden Club  
Flower Arrangers Guild of San Diego  
Master Gardener Association of San Diego  
Mission Hills Garden Club  
Point Loma Garden Club  
Ramona Garden Club  
San Diego Camellia Society  
San Diego Epiphyllum Society  
University Heights Garden Club  
Village Garden Club of La Jolla

### New and Renewing Libraries

Coronado Public Library  
Fredericka Manor  
San Diego County Library branches  
4S Ranch Library  
Casa de Oro Library  
Crest Library  
Fallbrook Library  
Lemon Grove Library  
Pine Valley Library  
Rancho San Diego Library  
Valley Center Library  
Orange County Public Library branches  
Cypress Library  
El Toro Library  
Garden Grove Main Library  
La Habra Library  
Library of the Canyons  
Tustin Library

### San Diego Floral Association

1650 El Prado, Rm. 105  
San Diego, CA 92101-1684  
619-232-5762

General Information [infosdfloal@gmail.com](mailto:infosdfloal@gmail.com)

