Friends of Balboa Park

Inside

Gate House Project Recognized
State Honors Friends Founder
New Speakers Coming for California Tower

Spring 2017 Newsletter
MESSAGE FROM THE NEW BOARD CHAIR

In a beloved park needing millions of dollars of attention, the list of projects accepted by Friends of Balboa Park never seems to shorten. We’ve had the satisfaction of crossing a few off during the past year, and added a similar number at the bottom.

The median strip along Park Boulevard is more attractive and less thirsty than it was a year ago, thanks to the waterwise landscape initiative of Friends’ longtime leader and benefactor Jim Hughes. The 31 decaying light standards that grace Cabrillo Bridge now shine proudly in their original pea green thanks to a collaboration among Park and Recreation, Balboa Park Conservancy, The San Diego Foundation, Committee of One Hundred, and Friends. Most recently, Friends turned to restoring the two gate houses that greeted your great grandparents to the 1915 California-Panama Exposition. Friends raised funds to support Jim Hughes as he, in cooperation with Park and Recreation and the Committee of One Hundred, orchestrated their restoration. We host a celebration of the results on March 29.

The glorious Moreton Bay Fig tree adjacent to the Natural History Museum has long been a beloved icon of the park. The encircling chain-link fence protects the tree’s root system at the cost of aesthetics and intimacy with it. Friends will improve that experience. Generous donors have been eager to support the installation of a deck that can offer our public a chance to roam around and under Balboa Park’s most visible and photographed specimen, keeping just enough distance that “AB” cannot declare his love for “CD” in bark.

As I walk along the Park’s West Mesa, I am frequently asked by park patrons where Balboa Park is. Friends Board member Jack Carpenter is taking the lead in designing gateway monuments that will announce the entry to our park. The south entry along Park Boulevard will be the first location adorned.

These initiatives add to the nearly 300 projects and activities undertaken by Friends in our 18 years since the other BP – founder Betty Peabody – brought us into existence. Our level of involvement only continues to grow, and I am pleased and honored to be the chair of Friends’ Board of Directors during this exciting time.

Tom Scott
Board Chair, 2017

A TEAM EFFORT

Friends of Balboa Park: A Team Effort

There are few successful endeavors in life that are achieved without the support of a team. Balboa Park is a perfect example when a community believes in something enough. Friends of Balboa Park is proud to be a member of that community, and we work hard to ensure our own team is as strong as it can be.

I am privileged to welcome Tom Scott as the new Chair of the Board of Directors and my new partner in steering Friends into the future. Tom is an extraordinary leader, with a sharp intellect, thoughtful engagement and warm personality that is quickly garnering him wide respect throughout the Park. His stewardship of our board promises to set a tone of success this year.

As we welcome Tom, I extend my deepest gratitude to outgoing Board Chair Pat Caughey. It was Pat who stepped forward in late 2015 to help Friends navigate through one of its most transformative eras. And one of his greatest and enduring legacies, a major new initiative for Friends that will be the culmination of a nearly year-long due diligence effort Pat has led, will be revealed publicly this summer.

The quality of the Friends of Balboa Park team continues to grow. Recently, we welcomed Kerri Kapich and Michelle Slingerland to the Board of Directors, two outstanding community leaders who bring invaluable talents to our efforts (see page 3).

Of course, the real force behind the Friends of Balboa Park team is you, our supporters. It takes a team effort – from dedicated volunteers to visionary board members to professional staff to a community of park lovers. You are the difference.

John Bolthouse
Executive Director

NEWSLETTER PRODUCTION Leslie Yu, Managing Editor Scarlet Willette, Graphic Designer
Contributors: Reema Makani Bocca, John Bolthouse, Judy Brown, Dean Crowder, Patricia Fleming, Tom Scott, Michelle Slingerland
Cover image: House of Hospitality in Balboa Park; photo courtesy of Richard Seignious
Betty Peabody Named California “Champion of the Community”

Friends of Balboa Park is pleased to announce that Founder and member of the Board of Directors Betty Peabody has been awarded the coveted “Champion of the Community” Award by the California Park & Recreation Society. Betty was nominated by San Diego Park and Recreation Department with the strong endorsement and support of Friends of Balboa Park.

“The California Champion of the Community Award is an honor bestowed upon advocates of parks throughout the state, and there is truly no one more deserving of such a distinction than Betty Peabody for her advocacy of Balboa Park,” said Friends of Balboa Park Executive Director John Bolthouse. “Friends of Balboa Park is so fortunate to have a volunteer leader of Betty’s caliber, and she is most deserving of this prestigious award.”

A volunteer in Balboa Park since 1969, Peabody founded the group that became Friends of Balboa Park in 1998. Since then, the group has spearheaded major capital improvement initiatives throughout The Park. She has since served on the board of directors, and remains an active volunteer on numerous Park committees, always advocating for the “Jewel of San Diego.”

“It was our great honor to nominate Betty, and we are so pleased the California Park and Recreation Society selected her for its ‘Champion of the Community’ Award,” said Herman Parker, Director of the Park and Recreation Department for the City of San Diego. “Betty is truly deserving of this recognition, as she has been a tireless advocate and dedicated steward of Balboa Park for nearly 50 years.”

Congratulations, Betty! We thank you for your time, treasure, and leadership!

Board News

The year 2017 has come with a number of exciting developments for Friends of Balboa Park’s Board of Directors. In January, Friends elected a new slate of officers, including: Tom Scott, Chairman of the Board; George Hardy, Vice Chair/Chair-Elect; Ken Tranbarger, Treasurer; Nancy Vaughan, Secretary.

In addition, we are pleased to welcome two extraordinary community leaders as the newest members of the Board.

San Diego native Kerri Kapich is the COO of the San Diego Tourism Authority. Kerri is recipient of numerous marketing, advertising and tourism awards, including one of the “Top 100 Marketers” in the nation by Advertising Age magazine and one of the “50 People to Watch” by San Diego Magazine.

Michelle Slingerland is a communications consultant with nearly two decades in marketing, public relations, and public affairs in the public, private, and nonprofit sectors. Michelle has served as Director of Communications at San Diego Grantmakers, Public Affairs Manager at the San Diego County Apartment Association, and marketing specialist with the City of San Diego.

Finally, Friends says thank you to Patricia Fleming, who stepped away from the Board earlier this year after serving since 2014. Pat was the first chair of Friends’ Marketing & PR Committee. Thank you for your wonderful service, Pat!

Project to receive Preservation Award

Friends of Balboa Park is proud to announce that project lead, Jim Hughes and Friends of Balboa Park will be receiving the 2017 “People in Preservation” Award from Save Our Heritage Organisation (SOHO) for the completion the Gate House Restoration Project. It is an honor to be recognized at SOHO’s 35th annual “People in Preservation” awards ceremony for outstanding achievement in the field of historic preservation at this prestigious annual event.
California Tower’s Sound to Get New Look

By David Marshall, AIA

The tallest, perhaps most photographed structure in Balboa Park is the 208-foot tall California Tower. The ornate, Spanish-style monument was completed in 1914 to greet visitors to the Panama-California Exposition the following year.

Contrary to popular belief, the cathedral-inspired bell tower, part of the Museum of Man, never actually had bells. However, in 1946, a thirty-chime carillon was installed, ringing musical chimes played on a keyboard. In 1967, the carillon was upgraded with a “100-bell symphonic carillon.” The chimes were amplified through eight large bullhorn speakers mounted in the arched openings near the top of the tower. Those old speakers remain and are the same type of speakers seen in high school football stadiums.

The speakers are clearly visible to park patrons, suggesting to some visitors that the bell tower might be fake. The presence of these speakers ruins the drama of the old Spanish tower, detracts from the park experience (some say they look like air raid sirens), and lead people to believe the chimes are pre-recorded when, in fact, they are live.

Consulting with acoustic engineers, Friends is working to replace and upgrade the 1940s technology with smaller, state-of-the-art speakers that will be less visible while providing improved sound. Plans call for new, low-profile weather-resistant speakers, new wiring, and a new amplifier. The new speakers would be smaller and set back into the shadows of the California Tower’s arches. The project is estimated to cost $27,000 and could be completed in conjunction with the upcoming seismic retrofit of the tower within the next twelve months, depending on fundraising.

The California Tower deserves our help, and with community support, we can take yet one more step in beautifying one of Balboa Park’s iconic symbols.

David Marshall is an award-winning preservation architect specializing in Balboa Park, and a member of Friends of Balboa Park’s Board of Directors.

Want to support the California Tower Chime Speaker Project? Contact Friends of Balboa Park today to learn how you can make a difference!

Historical Signs Interpret the Past

Over the past several months, Friends of Balboa Park’s Historical Signage Committee has been doing in-depth research about the historical accuracy of two major parts of Balboa Park and creating signs to inform the public of the recently uncovered findings. One of the newest signs gives history about the West Mesa of Balboa Park, located on the southern corner of Sefton Plaza off of Balboa Drive. The second sign of this phase of the project is located inside the California Quadrangle by the San Diego Museum of Man. This project is made possible by the County of San Diego Board of Supervisors on the recommendation of Supervisor Ron Roberts and the Community Reinvestment Program.

These are the latest landmark signs that Friends of Balboa Park has been assisting the City of San Diego Park and Recreation Department with since 2012. Find these blue signs throughout Balboa Park for facts about the park’s historic buildings and spaces.
Annual Butterfly Release in Zoro Garden

The Annual Butterfly Release will be on Saturday, May 27, 2017 from 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. in Zoro Garden. Join us for a special performance by The Hullabaloo Band at 11:00 a.m. and The Water Conservation Garden’s “Ms. Smarty-Plants”™ at 1:00 p.m. Butterfly releases will be held every hour at 11:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m., 1:30 p.m., and 2:30 p.m. In addition, enjoy family-friendly arts and crafts activities from our friends at the San Diego Floral Association. This event is made possible with donations by Pacific Premier Bank, Georgia Dutro, and Richard Seignious.

In preparation for the butterfly release, San Diego Rotary Downtown Breakfast Club will be planting approximately 500 butterfly- and pollinator-friendly plants in Zoro Garden while Hunter Industries clears Zoro Canyon. Thank you both groups and the Park and Recreation Department for making this possible for the community to enjoy.

Field Trips to Balboa Park

Friends of Balboa Park believes that school children deserve every opportunity to visit and explore Balboa Park. Field trip scholarships are offered to licensed Title I schools to bring schoolchildren back to the Park for an off campus learning experience. This year’s trips were made possible by generous contributions from the Competitor Group, WD-40 Company Foundation at The San Diego Foundation, Nordson Corporation Foundation, Rice Family Foundation, Friends of Balboa Park, and other private donors.

Schools that received scholarships and will be visiting Balboa Park in March through May 2017 include Ericson Elementary School, Gage Elementary School, Ira Harbison Elementary School, Jones Elementary School, National University Academy’s Sparrow Program, and Walt Whitman Elementary School.

Check with your school to see if there’s a field trip to Balboa Park in their future. Scholarship applications are accepted year round, check out the website for additional details: www.friendsofbalboapark.org/education-resources.

BECOME A FRIEND

Your tax-deductible donation in any amount helps us to protect, preserve, and enhance Balboa Park. Members receive a subscription to our quarterly newsletter and invitations to special events. You may also make a recurring donation of any size to Friends of Balboa Park or designate your gift in honor of or in memory of a loved one.

For more information:
(619)232-2282 or info@friendsofbalboapark.org

Friends of Balboa Park is a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) charitable organization and all donations are acknowledged. Federal Tax I.D. 33-0849518

www.smile.amazon.com

A portion of eligible purchases on Amazon can be donated to Friends of Balboa Park!

Log in and select Friends of Balboa Park. There is no additional cost to you, and it is just one more way for you to make a difference in Balboa Park!
Thank You to Our Generous Donors

Donations received from January 1 to April 15, 2017

Raymond and Vicky Abbott
Magdalena Acosta
Kathy Anderson Kim
Bill and Sharon Beamer in honor of Betty Peabody
John and Melissa Bolt house
Gayle Breitbard Klusky
Jack and Jackie Carpenter
John and Libby Carson
Ken Catlin in honor of Betty Peabody
The Colonel Frank C. Wood Memorial Fund at The San Diego Foundation
Dean Crowder
Dr. and Mrs. Olgard Dabbert
Dale and Kendra Dawson
Richard and Diane DeBolt
Georgia Dutro in support of the Annual Butterfly Release
Connie Englert
Val and Dee Gee Farrell
Patricia Fleming
Natalie Ganz
Glenn and Barbara Goltz in honor of Tom and Bonnie Scott
Jim Hall
George Hardy
Jim and Carmen Hughes
Dorothy Hummell
J.W. Seton Foundation
Kerri Kapich
Muriel Kimball
Dirk and Kitty Kingma in honor of Betty Peabody
Peter LaDow
Ken and Lynn Langley
Neil and Marjie Larson
Lawrence Y. True Memorial Fund at the San Diego Foundation in support of Trees for Health Garden
Kathy Lazzaro
The Legler Benbough Foundation
Mark Lester
Gordie and Nan Lutes
Renie Martin
Ida Louise McCalvin Botanical Gardens Easter Fund at The San Diego Foundation
Paul and Maggie Meyer in honor of Betty Peabody
Elizabeth Moore
Lynne Newman
Suzanne and John Ohl fest
Betty Peabody
Richard Pier in honor of Betty Peabody
Nobuko Rahe in honor of Vivian Rahe
Andrew Raines
Tom Rauner
Reuben H. Fleet Foundation Fund At The San Diego Foundation
VanDuyn Ridgway
Jeanette Rigsby in honor of Betty Peabody
Ron Roberts
Carole Sachs
San Diego Rotary Downtown Breakfast Club in support of Zoro Garden Planting
Dana Sather
Brad and Alice Saunders
John and Marta Scherer in support of the Dedicated Bench Pilot Program
Tom and Bonnie Scott
Harley Sefton
Donald Smith and Joel Fine
Spanish Village Art Center
Alan and Nancy Spector
William and Donna Steen
Stephen R. Dows Memorial Fund at The San Diego Foundation in support of Trees for Health Garden
Dan and Katie Sullivan
Debra Sullivan in honor of Paige Sullivan and Albert Salmon
The Thomas C. Ackerman Foundation
Joral Thomas
Ken and Mary Tranbarger
Nancy L. Vaughan
Helen Wagner
Walter J. and Betty C. Zable Foundation
Lucy Warren
Evelyn Wright-Elson

Thank You!
Tri p Bennett and Bennett & Associates for your invaluable pro bono services to Friends of Balboa Park
Douglas Kerner and Higgs, Fletcher & Mack for your invaluable pro bono services to Friends of Balboa Park

IN LOVING MEMORY
Recognizing contributions and celebrating the lives of loved ones, honorees are listed below and acknowledgement cards are sent to their families, per the donor’s request.

Ernie Grimm from Diana Brotherton-Ware

Raymond Warren from Patricia Fleming

MAKE YOUR GIFT TODAY
Ensure the long-term sustainability of Friends of Balboa Park with a gift to the endowment.

Please contact support@friendsofbalboapark.org or call (619) 232-2282
In celebration of National Arbor Day, Friends of Balboa Park planted 12 trees at Marston Point on Friday, April 28. With the partnership of the City of San Diego Park and Recreation Department, donors throughout San Diego dedicated Rainbow Eucalyptus or *Eucalyptus ficifolia* to loved ones.

By planting at Marston Point, our goal is to help Park and Recreation revive this part of the Park as it is often times overlooked and underutilized. These trees will help expand the canopy for patrons to enjoy more shade for decades to come.

**2017 Tree DedICATIONS**

**American Public Works Association**

*In honor of Caltrop Corporation*

*Michael Baker International*

*NV5, Inc.*

*Rick Engineering TyLin International*

*In celebration of Glenda Marie Duclo on her 80th birthday*

*Kim and Sandra Duclo*

*In honor of her 90th birthday*  

**Elizabeth Dunasky**  

by Carol & Steve  

Dave & Angela  

Dan  

Amanda & Ken  

Kevin & Tina  

Kim  

Nicole & Josiah  

Trevor  

Eric  

Amber & Heidi  

Michael  

Cory & Bernard  

Bernard  

Shawn & Jeff  

Jordan & Lindsay  

*In memory of Jose and Elvira Flores*  

by Jim and Carmen Hughes  

**Jonathan and Vivian**  

*In celebration of their engagement*

**In memory of Lucy Killea**  

by John Addams  

Judith Bambace  

Larry and Sharon Bay  

Julie Berry  

Martin Blair  

Karen Borowick  

Robert Brewer  

Eric and Michele Davy  

Jim and Mary Dawe  

Frank De Francesco  

Polly Dong  

David Ferguson  

Thomas Fitch  

Joyce Glazer  

Irma Gonzalez  

Robert and Roxane Helstrom  

Richard and Melissa Joniaux  

Leslie Keller  

Pauline Lim-Endresen  

Gary McElroy  

Gary Polakoff  

Vivian Reznik  

Sandra Schrift  

Robert Semmer  

Gary and Mary Jean Smith  

Roberta Spinner-Flack  

Leah Swearinggen  

Nancy L. Vaughan  

Howard Wayne  

**In memory of Elias C. Russell**  

by Micah and Janeen Russell  

**In memory of Olivia Serrano**  

by Rosanne Serrano and Family  

**In memory of Elyse Zuniga**  

by Joanne Arboleda  

Dianna Bongato  

Veronica Campbell  

Cathryn Clark  

Joe DiNero  

Cole Ferguson  

Kevin Forbes  

Berenz Huckins  

Dana Kent  

Daniel & Diann Nephew  

Maria Nyffenegger  

Kathleen Obrist  

Jennifer Penrod  

Rosaura Picasso  

Alaine Seastrom  

Rachel Thackson  

Morgan Thornberry  

Charles & Michelle Waterman  

Charles and Michelle Waterman

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**Save the Date! 2017 Annual Awards Luncheon**

Celebrate and honor Balboa Park’s volunteers and visionaries.

**Tuesday, October 17, 2017**

from 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

at the Balboa Park Club

For more information on event sponsorship opportunities, contact support@friendsofbalboapark.org.
2017 EVENTS

ANNUAL BUTTERFLY RELEASE

Saturday, May 27, 2017
10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Fiesta Botanica
Zoro Garden

ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Thursday, August 24, 2017
5:30 p.m.
Spreckels Organ Pavilion

ANNUAL AWARDS LUNCHEON

Tuesday, October 17, 2017
11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Balboa Park Club

31st ANNUAL HOLIDAY POINSETTIA PARTY

Thursday, December 7, 2017
3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Botanical Building

Congratulations to recent Facebook photo contest winner Bonnie Chance, for “Reflection Blooms” of Balboa Park’s Lily Pond.

Use #BestOfBalboaPark and #FriendsOfBalboaPark for your photos in the Park for a chance to win prizes.