

people." Miss Johanson, the Gift Shop's first full-time professional manager, brings 20 years experience as a buyer for Armstrong Nurseries and a lifetime of caring to her new position.

"I've been visiting the Arboretum since 1946," she said, "and I love this place." Miss Johanson is a long-time member of the Herb Society of America and, in fact, was chairman of the Arboretum Herb Garden for a recent two-year period. Her fascination with herbs and herb lore now finds outlet in the Gift Shop.

A new line of animal-shaped potpourris from Scarborough Fair are favorites of Miss Johanson, as are some charmingly packaged English soaps by Crabtree and Evelyn, Ltd. Stationery items ranging from greeting cards to gift wraps to note paper are imported from countries around the world. "We want to make the Gift Shop unique, with items you don't see everywhere," said Miss Johanson. A new collection of souve-

nir spoons, key rings, charms, and silver-plate bookmarks, each picturing either a peacock or a view of the Queen Anne Cottage, certainly meet that criterion.

Unique, too, are the handcrafted animals and arrangements fashioned by volunteers from natural, dried materials. Plants potted by volunteers for sale are also money makers, said Miss Johanson, as are postcards and Arboretum booklets. Peacock feathers, of course, continue in popularity. At 75¢ each, they are the number one seller among kids. Adults, meanwhile, are increasingly browsing the bookshelves. "I am constantly reading, looking for new books," says Miss Johanson.

The California Arboretum Foundation Gift Shop is open every day of the year except Christmas from 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Don't forget that Foundation members enjoy a 10 percent discount on all merchandise.

## ROBIN STAFFORD ELECTED NEW LAS VOLUNTARIAS HEAD

ROBIN (Mrs. Benjamin) Stafford, new president of Las Voluntarias, has only one regret as she assumes her new duties — she will



LuAnn B. Munns

*Robin Stafford*

no longer have time to work with the mapping crew crawling over rocks and under bushes at the Arboretum. Like many volunteers before her, Mrs. Stafford first came to the Arboretum because she had a general affinity for open space and flowers developed while she was growing up in her native Massachusetts.

But a plant identification course taught by Dr. E. Leonid Enari, former staff biologist, opened her eyes to some of the more subtle charms of the Arboretum.

"He'd come into class with a huge plastic bag filled with plant species he said he had collected on the grounds, and I'd ask myself, 'Now where did he find that?'" The answer to this question often led her to many out-of-the-way places at the Arboretum that she now considers more beautiful in their own way



LuAnn B. Munns

*Norma Johanson (left), the first professional manager of the Gift Shop, examines new giftware with Dorothy (Mrs. Earle) Thompson.*

than some of the more highly publicized features.

Mrs. Stafford and her husband, an Arcadia physician, settled here in 1976 after several years spent in other parts of California. While her two sons were young, Mrs. Stafford limited her involvement with Las Voluntarias to cleaning the depot and working on various Baldwin Bonanza committees. Once the boys, now 8 and 10 years old, started school full-time, she had larger blocks of time and began working on the mapping crew.

As president of Las Voluntarias, Mrs. Stafford plans to search out methods that can be used to make people care more about the Arboretum and its future.

"We must find some way to reach people and gain more support if we are to continue the existence of the Arboretum," she said.

Other officers installed at the Las Voluntarias meeting June 13 included: Dorothy (Mrs. Milton) Murset, 1st vice-president; Elaine (Mrs. John) Hoffman, 2nd vice-president; and Gene Hoyt, secretary.

## CAF TAKES STOCK, SETS GOALS AT ANNUAL MEETING

THE 35th ANNUAL MEETING of the California Arboretum Foundation on June 8 provided an ideal opportunity to celebrate past achievements and begin planning for future growth.

John S. Shepherd, president of the Foundation, reported that in 1982 the organization donated more than \$250,000 for Arboretum projects ranging from routine grounds maintenance to construction of a new Gift Shop. He then pledged support for 21 new goals set for the coming year, particularly the aim of involving the 30 members of the Board of Trustees more directly in Arboretum operations.

The 300 Foundation members at the meeting gave a standing ovation to Dr. Samuel Ayres Jr. and Helen Ayres as Mr. Shepherd described the vital role they played in founding the Arboretum 35 years ago. He then announced that the exhibit hall built by the Foundation has been rededicated as the "Ayres Hall of Environmental Education." A bronze plaque mounted near the front entrance symbolizes the Foundation's appreciation and admiration for the role the couple played in development of the Arboretum.

Sarah Flores, deputy to County Supervisor Peter Schabarum, presented a plaque from the Board of Supervisors honoring the Foundation on their 35th anniversary. The plaque also expresses the Supervisors' appreciation for the Foundation's "financial, volunteer, and moral support in the building and development of the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum."

Ms. Flores, in turn, accepted a plaque from the Foundation that

commended Mr. Schabarum for his efforts in behalf of the Arboretum.

After the meeting, each member received either a blue hibiscus (*Alyogyne huegelii*) or *Ficus* 'Green Islands' for the annual plant distribution.



The blue hibiscus *Alyogyne huegelii* was one of the plants distributed at the annual CAF meeting.



Director Francis Ching (left) and Dr. and Mrs. Samuel Ayres Jr. talk outside the Ayres Hall of Environmental Education.



1983. "Robin Stafford elected new Las Voluntarias head." *Garden* 7(5), 2-3.

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