

AN EXCITING TIME TO BE INVOLVED!

I feel very excited and honored to be involved with The Arboretum of Los Angeles County where there are so many wonderful things happening all the time. We have just had our 31st Baldwin Bonanza. It was exceptional! A heartfelt thank you goes to Sylvia Guerrero, our Director of Special Events, Trustee Marcia Bent, staffer

Felicia Freisma, volunteer Suzanne Haller, The Arboretum Staff, and Los Voluntarios, as well as all of the designers, vendors, and supporters who assisted in putting together this fabulous event. This proved to be our best fund-raiser to date. We had more attendees at our

Friday evening reservations only Patrons' Party and participants in our Silent Auction than ever before, along with the greatest number of restaurants



Enjoying Baldwin Bonanza, facing from left to right; Peter Atkins, CEO, Olene Ewell-White, Assistant Director East Agency Department of Parks & Recreation, and George Brumder, Trustee President.

supplying delectable morsels. In addition, we were able to enjoy the musical talent of Don LaCourt who entertained us with his trio. All in all, it was an extraordinary team effort!

Gail L. Shair has recently joined our Leadership Team as Director of Education. She

will direct all educational offerings, be intimately involved with establishing new programs, and serve as a crucial member of our design team for the conceptual long-range plan. She fills a critically important position at The Arboretum as education is our mission. Gail arrives with a master's degree in Science Education, and with solid experience having worked with

James Folsom, Ph.D. at The Huntington Botanical Gardens.

In April, our newly created Ethnobotanical Lecture Series began with Dr. Michael Balick, Director and Philecology Curator at the Institute of Economic Botany at The New York Botanical

Garden. He presented an entertaining and inspirational lecture, slide and video show to over 125 attendees. The diverse audience included students, educators, healers, members, volunteers, staff and representatives from The Arboretum and other local gardens. A small pre-lecture reception gave invitees an opportunity to meet Michael. Don't miss our next rewarding lecture in this series, to be held on Thursday, June 21, at 8.00 pm.

The list of corporate donors to The Arboretum continues to grow. Please welcome and support Core Media Group, Persson's Nursery, the California Philharmonic, the San Gabriel Valley Newspaper Group and Environmental Industries/Valley Crest Nursery. It is exciting to have these businesses believe in and invest in the future of our Arboretum!

And, it is certainly an exciting time to be involved with The Arboretum!

FROM GEORGE BRUMDER, BOARD PRESIDENT

WITH ALL GOOD WISHES

Please join me in a round of hearty applause for The Arboretum staff and volunteers who made this year's Baldwin Bonanza the biggest and best yet. Everyone did a terrific job, but I know you'll join me in a special hand for Sylvia Guerrero, who did a really outstanding job heading the whole project.

As some of you know by now, the Foundation plans to hire Nancy Goslee Power & Associates to create a conceptual long-range plan for The Arboretum. We expect that Nancy and her team will, with input from The Arboretum family and the community, produce an extraordinary plan. That plan

will be the basis of — and set the standard for — The Arboretum's development as a truly world-class arboretum and botanic garden serving all of Southern California.

The plan is intended to ensure that the many program and facilities initiatives identified in The Arboretum's Five-Year Plan will — with appropriate infrastructures and amenities — be developed over time in a coherent, well-thought-out way that will be highly appealing to visitors and donors alike.

We will keep you informed as the plan develops, and we will welcome and appreciate your input and support during this process.

Just so you know, our board is considering permanently shifting the Foundation's Annual Meeting from June to September. That will allow us, at the meeting, to present financial results for the Foundation's full fiscal year, which ends each June 30th. This approach should give everyone a better picture of what's going on at the Foundation and The Arboretum. We expect to hold the meeting on a Saturday afternoon, so more of our growing membership can participate. We will hope to see you there, and in the meantime, will welcome your questions and suggestions — on these and other topics.

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The Arboretum Newsletter is published by the Los Angeles Arboretum Foundation. The Arboretum of Los Angeles County is jointly operated by the Los Angeles Arboretum Foundation and the County of Los Angeles.



Brumder, George A. 2001. "With all good wishes." *News from the Arboretum of Los Angeles County* 2001:June-July, 2.

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