

## **OPEN GATES - December, 2023**

**\*\*\*NEXT MEETING: WEDNESDAY, December 6, 2023 - DOORS OPEN AT 5:00 PM\*\*\* CHRISTMAS PARTY & DINNER**

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### **2023 PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - PHUC HUYNH**

We made it to the end of the year. This is my 120<sup>th</sup> consecutive monthly President's message! What else can I share with you that you don't already know? Perhaps you can even predict what I will say after all these years. I must say that it was a longer coaster ride than I had ever anticipated from the beginning in 2014. The ride has brought me in contact with so many people who share my love for succulents. It has taken me to places and events that I had never even heard of prior to joining this club. Indeed, it has been a wonderful and pleasant, eye-opening experience in this position, and I am so grateful for having the opportunity to do it; to serve as your President.

During the past ten years, I have had the honor of working with three supportive vice-presidents, five secretaries, three wonderful treasurers, and over a dozen talented board directors. Everyone has made my responsibilities and duties much easier to accomplish. We have had our share of challenges, but the laughter and smiles have been most prevalent. I thank each of you for your commitment and dedication to this club. The club thanks you. I hope you had as much fun as I did.

Thank you for having the confidence and trust in me during my tenure. Thank you for the many kind words and bountiful encouragement throughout the years. It has been a delight and joy to share our common interest in cacti and succulents with each of you.

As 2024 brings in a new year, it will also begin a new chapter for Gates Cactus and Succulent Society. There will be some new officers and board directors leading Gates CSS. Please welcome each of them as they lead the club forward with many new cacti and succulent adventures.

Until the new year, let's first get festive with some cheerful holiday celebrations. Remember to bring your potluck dish/food to the party. We will start at 6PM or shortly thereafter, so please come earlier than our usual meeting time for preparation and some early relaxation. The party planners have taken great efforts to make this evening a memorable time to wrap up our year.

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Come with your food and holiday spirits and go home with some great holiday memories and gifts.

Happy holidays and may you share many blessings and joys with your friends and loved ones.

Good Bye,

Phuc Huynh

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**MESSAGE FROM 2024 PRESIDENT ELECT - JEFFREY LOEW**

GATES! It gives me great pleasure to introduce myself as your president elect of the Gates Cactus and Succulent Society of the Inland Empire.

Many of you know me, but for those who do not... allow me to tell you a little bit about myself.

I moved to Riverside, California from Cleveland, Ohio about 15 years ago after completing my Masters degree in Biology. My focus was on plant ecophysiology. While my passion has always been cacti, my research interests focused around carnivorous plants and nutrient cycling. After moving to California, I continued independent research, but focused on desert plants, particularly on cacti.

I am absolutely fascinated by not only the diverse form and function of cacti and succulents, but also their photosynthetic pathways and morphological adaptations, which far differ from the forest and wetland plants I was used to in Ohio.

After moving to Southern California, I was able to pursue one of my childhood dreams which was to create and grow a large cactus garden. I look back and fondly remember the first time I received a cactus as a gift. When I was in second grade Santa Claus had brought me a modest *Oreocereus* sp. that quickly led to building a small collection in a brightly lit kitchen window. I wonder now what little Jeff would think of how he has grown... Not only accumulating a beloved collection, but also becoming a part of an amazing organization and elected the honor of leading that community. It gives me great pleasure to serve all of you in 2024 and beyond!

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## **ODDS AND ENDS**

**December 6 is our annual Christmas Potluck/Dinner/Party/Meeting/Celebration!**

- Doors will open at 5:00 for set-up and dinner will start as close to 6 PM as we can make it!
- Please keep in mind that there will be no official business conducted and there will be no plant or general sales of any kind, just PARTY, PARTY, PARTY.
- If you are paying for membership for 2024, please pay at the January 3, 2024, General Meeting.

**Board Meeting Updates:**

- Continued planning for the Show & Sale in May of 2024.
- Election Results:
  - President: Jeffrey Loew
  - Vice President: Kim Uhrman
  - Secretary: Nicole Ocegüera
  - Treasurer: To be filled
  - Director: Elias Aparicio
  - Director: Rene Hernandez
  - Director: To be filled
  - Director: To be filled
- As we move into the new year, we graciously welcome suggestions about what type of program or subject you would enjoy at the general meetings. Please email or call Phuc or any other board member. Contact info is at the end of this newsletter.

**STILL WANTED: Volunteer - Kitchen Duty.** Contact Jeffrey Loew or Kim Urman at our next meeting. A big thank you to Ann Reynolds for her devoted service to keeping our kitchen stocked and ready for an enjoyable snack-break. Like all duties, it has come time for Ann to step-back and enjoy herself at the meetings... as we all have. With this in mind, until we have a new Kitchen Duty volunteer, we will not have an open kitchen during our January meeting intermission. Further open kitchen intermissions will be based on volunteer commitment at the previous month's meeting. *BTW, you can volunteer for a single meeting, too!*

**Odds & Ends:** If you would like to post yard sales or any other updates/information that you believe would be of interest (pictures, plant sales, yard sales that include plants, events, etc., etc., etc.) to our club members via this newsletter, please email me at [czechitout82@gmail.com](mailto:czechitout82@gmail.com) or call/text 303-986-6313 or see me at the General Meeting. Thank you everyone, Jeff

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**2024 MINI-SHOW LIST - REMINDER, NO DECEMBER MINI-SHOW**

**2024 MINI SHOW OFFICIAL LIST**

<b>2024</b>	<b>Cactus</b>	<b>Succulent</b>
January	Hooked Spined Mammillaria	African Aloe Species
February	Chilean Cacti	Othonna, Senecio
March	Coryphantha, Escobaria	Echeveria
April	Echinocereus	Cotyledon, Tylecodon
May	Best Staged Cacti	Best Staged Succulent
June	Thelocactus, Stenocactus	Euphorbia
July	Photograph	Photograph
August	Frailea, Blossfeldia	Adromischus
September	Epiphytic Cacti	Sansevieria
October	Matucana, Oroya, Submatucana, Dead Plant	Aizoaceae, Dead Plant
November	South American Columnars	Agave

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**UPCOMING EVENTS - NEW 2024 LIST COMING SOON!**

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**GATES CSS CONTACT LIST - 2023. 2024 CONTACT LIST COMING SOON!**

We welcome your comments, suggestions or questions. You can reach out to any of the following board members by phone or send an email to [gatescactusandsucculent@gmail.com](mailto:gatescactusandsucculent@gmail.com)

President	Phuc Huynh	909 910 9195
Vice President	John Reynolds	909 767 5606
Secretary/Librarian	Barbara Croonquist	909 731 1587
Treasurer/Newsletter	Jo Ann Crabtree	909 633 6934
Board Member/Rescue Chair	Jeff Loew	330 986 6313
Board Member	Rene Hernandez	909 875 3607
Board Member	Kim Urman	909 222 3326
Board Member	Ann Reynolds	909 987 5706
Mini Show Chair/Judge	Barry Urman	909 328 0901
Greeter	Judy Horne	
Email	<a href="mailto:Gatescactusandsucculent@gmail.com">Gatescactusandsucculent@gmail.com</a>	
Web	<a href="https://gatescactusandsucculentsociety.com">https://gatescactusandsucculentsociety.com</a>	

Gates Cactus and Succulent Society 2023 is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization