



## President’s Message – Nancy Hochman

Dear Docent Family,

What an amazing and surreal year this has turned out to be. No one could have anticipated our year ending so abruptly in mid-March. Trying to figure out what I should be talking about for my last Zoo Line article, I was struck by the fact I have little to report. Anything I might say could be totally off base and out of date by the time you get this. I would strongly suggest you make sure you are receiving [cmzaux@cmzoo.org](mailto:cmzaux@cmzoo.org) emails from Jeanie. As we get updated information, emails from Jeanie will be your best source of what is current in addition to any information coming directly from Bob.

What I *can* tell you is we won’t be meeting for our usual end-of-the-year Joint Meeting in June. I am sad not to have this meeting; it is our celebration where docents are honored for their years of service and recognized for the number of service hours they have given to the Zoo. It is when we welcome the trainees as an important part of our organization. It is also my opportunity to thank the members of this year’s CMZA Board for the incredible amount of work accomplished as they planned and guided all our activities. They have given a lot to our organization. I hope to be able to have this meeting in September, but only time will tell.

First, I want to say what a privilege it has been to serve as your president this past year. We had quite a year. I need to give an immense thank you to Sue Sallee for her programs this year and her constant support. Art and Cate have been real troopers guiding the class, selected by Marcia and Carol, through training – they nearly made it to the finish line. Barbara, Judy, Jean and Gayle I. kept the TEs busy as they booked and staffed tours and safaris. Andrew kept us financially sound while Cris kept the IEs on their toes. As Past President, Glenna was a constant wealth of information, a sounding board, an inspiration for me as well as the commander-in-chief of our 50th Year Celebration. As our secretaries, Marie produced the directory and updates while Mindy took amazing minutes keeping track of all our meetings.

Kathy O. did an outstanding job encouraging us to raise funds for Big Back Yard. Marty and the chickens thank you. Lovice kept us on the straight and narrow making sure our policies were clear. Working on Zoo grounds was so much easier with well-organized carts – thank you, Marianne. Kathy K. kept the DRC humming, no easy task. Nona led us to the Rocky Mountain Arsenal and the Science Foundation Ice Core Facility, both wonderful field trips. While Charlotte kept us educated with fantastic CECs which were both meaningful and entertaining, Deb tallied all the CECs, the hours earned by TEs and IEs and so much more.

Sue Mayher saw to it that all special events were staffed and ran smoothly, no small feat. ZOOM leader, Jeanie, and Zoopeteer leader, Sheree, kept their crews in line and provided educational and fun outreach programs for schools and others.

## DATES TO KNOW

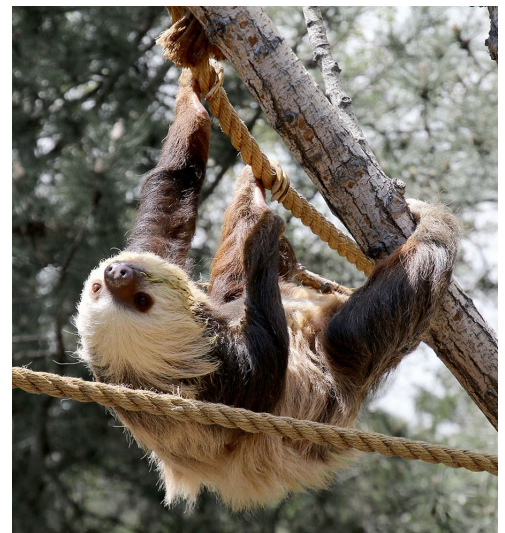
*Meetings start at 9:30 a.m.*

June 3 — Incoming and outgoing Executive Boards video conference meeting via Zoom app

*Keep an eye on your e-mails for further information about the Zoo re-opening, and for guidelines on docent activities as limitations are eased.*

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## Hang In There

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## President's Message - *continued*

Special thanks to our social duo, Eileen and Kim. We ate well at all social gatherings. There was always an abundance of delicious food and conversation. We had special Ad Hoc committees. The Financial Committee, chaired by Jody, oversaw grants to keepers and staff, and the Tech Committee, chaired by Cris, did major overhauling trying to create order out of our computer chaos. Last, but certainly not least, Linnea and Joelle published exceptional Zoo Lines. They were informative, entertaining and always great reading.

Stacey Graham has been a most valuable resource. Sue and I could always count on her to listen and give clear advice. She could always see the big picture when we were often too narrowly focused.

The entire Docent population also deserves kudos for all that was accomplished. I don't have final tallies but we had a most successful year.....tours, safaris, cart talks, numerous special events, interesting encounters with guests, ZOOM happenings in the Loft and off grounds plus entertaining and educational Zoopeeter programs, and don't forget our wonderful 50th year celebration, a masterpiece. Whatever the Zoo asked of us, we did, and we did it with style. Thank you so much.

Again, a final, special heartfelt thank you to all the Board members. You put up with long meetings, often intense discussions but always keeping the best interests of the Auxiliary and Zoo foremost. It has been a pleasure to work with you. I want to wish Sue Sallee and her Board the very best as they begin their adventure in uncertain times.

Be sure to check your email for updates. We'll be back in action before too long.

All my best to you with air hugs all around. *Nancy*

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## Financial Report

At the end of April, which is also the end of our Fiscal Year, the Operational Account showed a final balance of \$3.56. Purchases were made in April for DRC/Equipment, Sign-up Genius annual fee, and popcorn and oil for Animal Enrichment.

The balance in the Restricted Account at the end of April was \$23,272.62. This includes a payment made toward the Animal Valentine Project for BBY.

*Andrew Witherow, Treasurer*

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## CMZA Zoo Line Next Issue Information

Please send all submissions – information, articles, pictures. etc. – to [cmza.zooline@yahoo.com](mailto:cmza.zooline@yahoo.com). The deadline for the July issue is **Monday, July 6**.

Thank you - Linnea McDonald & Joelle Shreves, Editors

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## Directory Information Updates Needed ASAP

This is your **VERY LAST CHANCE** to update your personal and certification information in the Docent Directory to be published in September 2020.

Please contact Marie Poyzer by e-mail or phone **RIGHT AWAY** if you need to make any changes.



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## CMZ Auxiliary Executive Board for 2020-2021

Your CMZA Executive Board for 2020-21 was elected in May and is shown below.

President ..... Sue Sallee  
President-Elect..... Barbara Kalbli  
1st Vice President ..... Art Schwall  
1st Vice President-Elect..... Susan Gross  
2nd Vice President..... Judy Sondermann  
2nd Vice President-Elect ..... Marie Poyzer  
Corresponding Secretary ..... Kathy Kidd  
Recording Secretary ..... Mindy Mahler  
Treasurer ..... Andrew Witherow  
IE Chair..... Ann Marie Jackson  
Past President (ex officio)..... Nancy Hochman

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## Supplemental Activities Chairs for 2020-2021

Thank you to the following people who have agreed to serve as chairpersons for our wide variety of docent activities and to attend Board meetings (not including the current Zoom video conference meetings which are for the Executive Board members only).

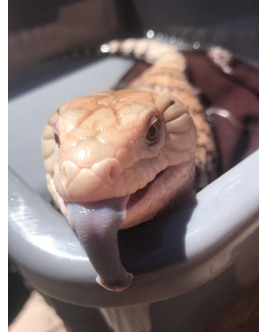
Our CMZA Organizational Chart is available on page Z-8 of the docent manual.

Animal Enrichment..... Kathy O'Donnell  
By Laws, Rules & Policies ..... Lovice Riffe  
Carts..... Marianne Brooks  
CEC ..... Charlotte Greene  
DRC ..... Greta Johnson  
Field Trips..... Marsha Fogarty  
Membership ..... Judy Schlei and Carol Royce  
Safari Chair..... Gayle Irani  
Service Registrar..... Anne Wardrop  
Social ..... Merrill Boruchin-Spielman and Diana Gantz  
Special Events..... Suzanne Twohig  
Tour Chair..... Jean McKanna  
Zoo Line ..... Linnea McDonald and Joelle Shreves  
Zoom..... Jeanie Baratono  
Zoopeteers ..... Sheree Lira



## This Year in ZOOM

The CMZA ZOOM program was very successful this year. ZOOM Docents participated in care, training, and interpretation of animals in the Loft, the Treehouse, and Scutes Gallery.



During the program year ZOOM Docents earned 3346.5 hours doing Outreach Programs, working in the Loft and in the Treehouse, interpreting and handling animals in Scutes, and covering lunches in the Loft.

*Jeanie Baratono, ZOOM Chair*

*Pictures by Jeanie: Undara, the newly arrived Spotted Python; and Kirby, Blue Tongued Skink*

## IE Year-end Round Up

IE Programs had a variety of presenters from beekeepers, to zookeepers discussing the change towards “storytelling or anecdotal snippets of information”, and EdVenture representatives discussing the important trend of “labeling”.

There was a surge in attendees at the meetings and we are grateful for the support the docents continue to give. A huge thank you to Tami Dickens (IE secretary), and Janet Carlisle (Education Committee Rep) for the incontrovertible backing and assistance.

Peace!

*Jane Emerson-Brown*

## News to Note

- Run to the Shrine has been rescheduled to Sunday, August 30<sup>th</sup>.
- Both the major fundraisers for the CMZ chapter of the AAZK – Art on the Hoof and Bowling for Rhinos – have been **cancelled**. However, the annual pub fundraiser, **Cheers for Rhinos** is scheduled for June 25th! You can visit the AAZK page on the CMZ website for more info.
- After several years of Palm Oil Team engagement and thousands of coloring pages and petitions from the community, Kroger (King Soopers in COS) has finally joined the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil! Kroger is the largest supermarket chain by revenue in the country. Their membership is a significant win for endangered and at-risk species living in palm oil territory.

## What You Say Matters

The AZA is encouraging us to change some of our wording with guests. As you review your animal information, docent manual, etc. work on using these words as part of your notes and presentations.

Use this...	/	Not this...
In Human Care	/	Captivity
Transporting	/	Shipping
Nutrition Center	/	Diet kitchen
Wellness or Well-being	/	Welfare
Profession	/	Industry
Habitat or Enclosure	/	Cage

*Cris Stoddard*

## CMZA 50th • Docent Memories

*This is the last in a series which has been published throughout the 50h Anniversary Year. Thank you to all the docents who contributed their memories and variety of experiences.*



### Sally Goldstein

We always had fun, since we had opportunities to handle animals at parties and classes. I remember holding a 6-foot boa wrapped around my waist so I could hold it. It would get warm and start to slip over my hips. I kind of supported it on a rail and got under the coils and pulled it up. It would constrict and I would manage to hold it for about 10 minutes. Then it would get warm and comfy and slip again. After about 45 minutes that got old and I returned it to its quarters.

### Katie Poehlmann

I was working with an outreach program (ZOOM) and we went to a home for memory loss. We talked about the animals and then brought out biofacts, one being Elson’s pelt. One of the ladies asked us why our cat was so docile.

Another time on a ZOOM program at a nursing home, while holding one of the skinks, I asked a lady if she wanted to touch it. She did and immediately stuck her finger into her mouth” This was before “You Touch, You Wash” policy.

### Helen Holmgren

I was Ms. Docent who is sort of a master of ceremonies at a puppet show for a pre-school group. I was leading a part in which the kids could ask questions-supposedly of the “animals”. One sweet child asked, “How do baby giraffes get inside the mommy?” There was a moment when I think every adult there held their breath wondering what I would say to this 4-year-old. Now I know I could have come up with a better answer but being flustered I said something to the effect that our time had run out. I wonder if maybe she thought to ask her parents which is what I should have answered.

### Sue Mayher

One of my favorite memories was watching the mom tapir try to keep up with her baby who was racing around their enclosure like crazy. A little boy came by and said the animals were hippos, not tapirs.

### Greta Johnson

I was giving a GM tour (now Amazing Mammal) to 3rd graders. We were in the old elephant/giraffe building. As seasoned docents will remember, to view the elephants and giraffes when they were inside, guests walked around a bench area, in a circle, with elephants on one side and on the opposite side were the giraffes. Lucky and Kimba were our only elephants. Lucky had started her painting training, to give her more enrichment activities. I talked to the students first about the elephants, since they were up close, noticing that the keepers had already washed the exhibit and cleaned up all the poop. This was very important because Lucky often used the opportunity to throw feces at guests as entertainment!

Our group walked around the circle to talk about the giraffes. I turned my back to the giraffes so the students could face me and see the giraffes at the same time we were discussing them, so I could see the elephants behind the students. We finished our discussion at about the same time Lucky scooped up a water puddle. I saw what was about to happen, in a split second decided not to react, and the students were sprayed with water (not much, mind you). The reaction was hilarious! The boys all laughed and the girls screamed. They will never forget that trip! And believe me, if the exhibit had not been cleaned, we would not have been so close!

### Cynthia Preston

Sharing Lilly with the world was an absolute joy for me. I adored her so much and loved teaching people about her and her species, so much so that her loss felt like losing my own pet. I also always cherish the opportunity to teach others about snakes and other reptile friends who are often incredibly misunderstood, if not maligned. The staff and docents too... what incredible people. Many have inspired me so much... to continue to learn and to see the world! Being in a room with others who share a common passion is always a good feeling. Cheyenne Mountain Zoo, its animals and people, changed my life and my heart.



### Information and Articles of Interest

- It's been called the world's most dangerous bird. The cassowary's long dagger-like middle toes were responsible for the death of a man in Florida last year, and new research now shows that its glossy feathers are unlike those of other iridescent birds. *Shared from Apple News*  
<https://apple.news/Ai0qb3n3mQf6C6pGZpTzKGO>
- YouTube video from Austin Kennedy, Teen Programs Supervisor, showing Marty's new exhibit in Big Backyard. <https://youtu.be/2OLG9A30HUG>
- In the May 2020 issue of National Geographic there are two articles of interest: "Where Have all the Insects Gone?" on page 40 and "Bodies in Motion" on page 118. If you do not subscribe to National Geographic, but do have a Pikes Peak Library card, you can access all the recent issues online at their website, [ppld.org](http://ppld.org). Choose **CYBERSHELF** from the blue menu bar across the top of the website. Then click on **RBDigital Magazines (Zinio)** from the list part way down the Cybershelf page. Click again on the **RBdigital Magazines – eMagazines** link and you will be taken to the website where you can access magazines. You will have to confirm your library card and login PIN and "Create a New Account" with your e-mail to check out magazines to read on your computer, tablet or other iOS/Android device.
- The Cornell Lab of Ornithology has almost a dozen live bird cams, and links to many YouTube videos of various bird activities and life stages. <https://www.allaboutbirds.org/cams/>

### **RHYMES WITH ORANGE** by Hilary Price

From the May 13, 2020 issue of *The Gazette*



### **Photo Credits**

Picture of Chalupa on page 1 taken by Linnea McDonald.

"Zoopeteers in Action" picture, above, taken by Jeanie Baratono

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PDFs of most issues of Zoo Line from 2015 to the present are available in the Docent area of the CMZ website, [cmzoo.org](http://cmzoo.org). You must have the password to log in to the Docent area. The direct link is:

<https://www.cmzoo.org/support/volunteer/active-docent-information/>

You can also use the Search function (magnifying glass) and enter "docent". That will bring up the "Active Docent Information" link.