

PRESS RELEASE

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For immediate release

FIFTH ANNUAL MILLENNIUM AWARDS LUNCHEON TO HONOR KAY PORTER AND ROGER SHOWLEY NOVEMBER 15, 2005

On Tuesday, November 15, 2005, the Friends of Balboa Park will host the fifth annual Millennium Awards Luncheon at the Balboa Park Club. Each year outstanding citizens in the Balboa Park community are selected to receive the Friends' highest honor --the Millennium Award. This year's honorees are **Kay Porter**, a community leader and long-time Balboa Park advocate, and **Roger Showley**, author and columnist for the San Diego Union-Tribune.

Kay's contributions to the Park include serving as president of the San Diego Historical Society, co-chairing the "Celebrate the Holidays" and "Designer Showcase," and serving on numerous committees for Patrons of the Prado, the Girl Scouts, and the Timken Museum.

Roger Showley, a staff writer at the San Diego Union -Tribune writes about historic preservation, housing trends, downtown redevelopment and neighborhood revitalization. He is the author of three books on San Diego history; *San Diego: Perfecting Paradise*, *Balboa Park: A Millennium History*, and *San Diego: Then & Now*. His passion for the history and preservation of Balboa Park are evident in his writing.

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During the reception which begins at 11:30 a.m., guests will be greeted by **Cath Kachur** impersonating Kate Sessions, in keeping with the horticultural theme of the luncheon. Featured luncheon speaker, **John Bagnaso**, renowned gardening expert and radio talk show host for the nationally syndicated program, “The Garden Compass,” will speak about Kate Sessions and the trees of Balboa Park. We are pleased to welcome back **Clark Anthony** as our master of ceremonies.

The luncheon helps raise funds for ongoing projects and programs of the Friends that benefit Balboa Park. Returning sponsors include **Union Bank of California, San Diego Foundation**, and **Connie Golden**. New sponsors are **Allan Zukor Advertising Design Inc, Evolve Marketing Group, Mack Barclay, Inc.**, and **Streeter Printing**. For more information, please contact the Friends of Balboa Park office: **619-235-5907**.

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Founded in 1999 as the non-profit Balboa Park Millennium Society, the Friends of Balboa Park brings together key community and civic leaders, park enthusiasts and concerned San Diegans to help preserve the legacy of this beautiful Balboa Park. Whether it concerns art, culture, recreation, education, botany or architecture, the Friends accomplishes its mission by “**Connecting People to the Park**”.