

Park Society News

As an introduction to members of the San Diego County Parks Society, a logical place to start is with the DPR's own **Cheryl Wegner**, who, in addition to her duties as Volunteer Coordinator, serves as the liaison between the DPR and the Parks Society. Cheryl strives to ensure that relations between the DPR and the Parks Society remain cordial and mutually helpful. The board has great confidence in her advice.

Grace Aspiras has been working with the Parks Society since 2008. Immensely talented, she is superbly organized and highly meticulous, providing the kind of assistance that a disparate group of private citizens need most. A graduate of UC Davis, Grace has had a rich and varied work history, including eighteen years with an educational software company and time as a personal trainer. She currently is part of the Basic Writing Program at UCSD, where she is much beloved by students and instructors alike.

Ralph Strahm, board vice president, once worked with the DPR for many years as volunteer coordinator, and as a District Park Manager, holding the liaison position with the Parks Society that Cheryl Wegner now occupies. His son, Ron, is currently a ranger at Flinn Springs County Park. Ralph's background includes service with the Peace Corps in Malaysia, time as a faculty member at the University of Michigan, and many years as a fundraiser, mostly in the service of library construction and medical research. Ralph supplies the Parks Society with much of its institutional memory, with a keen ability to provide valuable insight during discussions.

Remaining Park Society members will be introduced in next month's newsletter.

On behalf of the San Diego County Parks Society, Happy Holidays!

Energy Tips

BY: Johanna Salomon, Special Events and Community Outreach Coordinator

Did you know that an average of 75 percent of your electric bill during the holiday season can be attributed to your holiday lighting and heating costs?

So save some energy (and money) this holiday season by doing the following:

1. Use LED holiday lights. They cost more upfront but in the long run they save up to 90 percent of energy costs.
2. Lower your thermostat and wear socks and a sweater indoors. Lowering your thermostat by one degree Fahrenheit can reduce energy use by 3 percent.
3. Weatherstrip and caulk windows. Check window frames for cracks and fill them with caulk that contains silicon. This can help save up to 5 percent on your energy bill.

