

February 25, 2024

## Executive Director Message at SDBA's 2024 Annual Meeting

We don't always know why we are put in certain life situations, but this I do know:

It seems that I silently work on behalf of a very dedicated individual, Elaine Antoniuk. Elaine is no longer with us, and I never had the pleasure of knowing her. I know that she cared deeply about this organization. She adored book arts. She kept SDBA alive for many years. She attracted quality persons to serve on the Board of Directors. She was a dedicated artist—yet, far beyond that, and in her generosity, she provided untold resources to this organization. I've had the pleasure of knowing Elaine's sister Adele, and we worked together for nearly seven years.

I also know that there are many others who have given their efforts, love, resources and time to help SDBA thrive.

SDBA is seemingly at its strongest today. Appreciation goes out to all who have worked towards this outcome. Lark Burkhardt honored and met the BOD's directives back in 2014, setting SDBA on a viable non-profit course. I started volunteering under Lark's leadership, and it was a pleasure to work and learn from her. From SDBA's books, Lark showed and taught me what best serves the organization. I thank Talin Hartounian for her ED leadership principles. As Lark moved on, Gretchen Hiegel took on the challenge and volunteered, serving as SDBA's Chair for some six years. Under Gretchen's tenure SDBA grew, spread throughout the United States and beyond. I thank Gretchen for those years and for the support, trust and freedom she offered me towards our workshop program.

I can't begin to tell you all of the personal gifts of new and renewed friendships. So many of you have deeply touched my life. I adore working with our creative teachers and I love learning. I also thank our current Board of Directors...they are the best and we are off to a great start. In this new role of Executive Director, I'm here to serve at the pleasure of the San Diego Board of Directors. Thank you for the trust you've placed in me. Thank you for wanting this new role to encompass and maintain SDBA's Workshop Chair position.