Dear Committee of 100
Members and Friends,

We are all deeply saddened by the sudden death of Patricia DeMarce on December 7, 2005. Pat was president of The Committee of 100 for nearly 30 years. Her skillful advocacy and unbounded energy are legendary. Her dynamic presence will be sorely missed; her commitment to the Committee’s goals will be long remembered by the entire preservation community; and her many successes now stand in Balboa Park as her lasting gifts and legacy to San Diego.

Pat was present at the dedication ceremonies of the reconstructed West Arcade in November, where we celebrated the most recent achievement of The Committee of 100. Mayor-elect Jerry Sanders, State Assembly member Chris Kehoe, City Council member Toni Atkins and other community leaders and guests were in attendance, validating once again the mission of The Committee of 100: the preservation of the Spanish Colonial architecture in Balboa Park.

The Board of Directors of The Committee of 100 is determined to carry on with the important mission to which Pat dedicated so many years of effort. If we are to continue with our successes, we will need the support of all our members and that of so many others.

Those who wish to contribute in memory of Pat DeMarce may do so by sending checks made out to The Committee of 100 and mail to:

The Committee of 100
c/o Balboa Park Administration Building
2125 Park Blvd.
San Diego, CA 92101

Thank you,
Michael Kelly, MD
Acting President,
The Committee of 100

In Memoriam

A purposeful life, laughter, dedication and love, these will be our memories to linger, as you watch from above. We will continue with resolve, our will is strong. Your spirit is with us, God Bless you and keep you safe in his love.
Pat’s love affair with Balboa Park most likely began when her daughters were young (Michele and Danielle) and participated in the San Diego Youth Ballet Program held in the Casa del Prado building in the late 1960’s. She also served as President for the Civic Arts for Youth committee during that time. The deterioration of that building was very evident in those days. The 1915 building was showing its age. She became active in the Committee of 100 when it formed in 1967 to provide the impetus for voter approval of a bond measure to raise funds for the Casa del Prado. The bond was approved in 1968 and so began Pat’s “career” in the Park with the completion of the restored Casa Del Prado in 1971. Pat assumed the leadership of The Committee of 100 in 1976. Her irrepressible energy, charm, enthusiasm, determination, and tenacity were the spark that ignited this extraordinary partnership between a municipal government (City of San Diego) and our not-for-profit volunteer organization (Committee of 100) dedicated to the preservation of Spanish Colonial architecture in Balboa Park.

Although Pat was involved in a variety of volunteer organizations, Balboa Park was the cornerstone of her efforts and that which was closest to her heart. During 30 years of leadership the Committee was able to accomplish extraordinary things! Just look at the list of accomplishments; Casa del Prado completed in 1971, Casa de Balboa restoration completed in 1981, Spreckels Organ Pavilion restoration completed in 1983 (including the raising of $100,000 to restore and augment the Spreckels Organ), East El Prado Arcade restoration in completed 1992, House of Charm replication and construction completed in 1996, House of Hospitality replication and construction completed in 1997, and the West El Prado Arcade completion and dedication on November 30, 2005. The Committee of 100 contributed to the ornamentation restoration on the California Building, the Ford Building, and the Museum of Art façade restoration. The Committee provided the funds for the ornamental lighting project for the Casa del Prado, and for the restoration of the Four Cornerstones of American Democracy Fountain in the lobby of the Balboa Park Club. Pat was the driving force behind the effort to designate the Balboa Park 1915 and 1935 Exposition buildings and arcades as National Historic landmarks. Wow! Of course none of this was done by Pat alone. Her greatest gift was her ability to bring people and organizations together, infect them with her enthusiasm, incredible mastery of the park’s history and needs, and put them to work to meet the current goal, never taking no for an answer, and always gracious and grateful.

Pat was born in Newport, Rhode Island and moved to San Diego as a youth. She graduated from Hoover High School and San Diego State University, where she met her husband, Donn DeMarce. In addition to Donn and her two daughters, Michele and Danielle, she is survived by her two grandchildren and a sister in La Mesa. A beautiful and moving memorial service was held at Greenwood Memorial Park in the Garden Chapel with standing room only attendance with so many present to honor this wonderful lady.

Each of us who knew Pat will have our own special unique memories to remember her by. Many have expressed a wish to contribute to Pat’s memory with a donation to The Committee of 100. For a contribution idea, see the section later in the Newsletter about the Alcazar Garden Fountain Restoration project.

The Board of Directors of the Committee of 100 met recently to begin the process and planning for “life after Pat.” We are all committed to continuing Pat’s legacy and ensuring that the preservation goals for our wonderful Balboa Park are met as they arise. This will be a never ending commitment by all of us. We will need the continuing support of our membership and many organization partners to “spread the word” to friends and acquaintances to join us.

Farewell dear friend. We will miss you and think of you often with love and respect, forever grateful.
CELEBRATING THE DEDICATION AND RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONIES OF THE COMPLETED WEST EL PRADO ARCADE ON WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2005
NEXT ON THE HORIZON! RESTORATION OF ALCAZAR GARDEN FOUNTAINS AND HISTORIC TILES . . . . 

With the tragic vandalism done to the historic tile fountains and benches in Alcazar Garden, the Committee of 100 Board have been working for several months to develop a plan for the restoration due to the damage. This is a project that Pat DeMarce had spent many hours on and what better way to honor her than contribute to the restoration in her name. If you wish to make a donation, please mail checks to the new address for the Committee of 100 shown on this page. Checks should be made payable to the Committee of 100 with a note specifying that it is a donation made in Pat’s memory. It is the Board’s wish that a commemorative plaque be placed in Alcazar Garden when restoration is completed that will note the special contributions Pat made to Balboa Park and to the citizens of San Diego for so many years.

NEW ADDRESS FOR THE COMMITTEE OF 100
Please make a note of the new address for the Committee of 100
Committee of 100
c/o Balboa Park Administration Building
2125 Park Blvd.
San Diego, CA 92101

The tentative date for this year’s
Annual Luncheon is
Monday, May 8, 2006 at 11:00 AM
Balboa Park Club, Balboa Park