

**Orinda Garden Club
With Piedmont Garden Club
General Meeting Minutes
Thursday, February 25, 2016
Orinda Country Club**

9:30 Arrive 10:00 Meeting 10:30 Program

President **Margie Murphy** called the meeting to order at 10:04 am. She gave the members an A plus for participation and especially for recent events: Pier 24 Photography Field Trip and 2/11/16 Film showing of *Racing to Zero Waste* with wine and popcorn. She noted that the film may be shown at one of next year's general meetings.

Joyce Nelson moved and **Yoni Mayeri** seconded and the Jan. 20, 2016 general meeting minutes were approved as e-mailed.

Treasurer **Sandy Barnett** announced that the \$1,500 donation was given in honor of **Marty DeJonghe** and the scarecrow committee. **Sandy** asked members to access the full treasurer's report from the OGC website.

Communication

Sandy reported for **Janet Riley** from the nominating committee the following slate of officers for a two year term beginning 7/1/16: Treasurer **DD Felton**, Corresponding Secretary **Sandra Holland**, Recording Secretaries **Mary Ellen Schneider** and **Margene Stahle**. **Sandy** moved and **Louise Diracles** seconded and the slate was approved unanimously.

Corresponding Secretary **Tina Locke** reported that **Petra Michel**, **Isa Marie Ziegler**, and **Kris Rawson** will take a one year leave of absence. Additionally, **Midge Zischke** and **Betsy Bingham** are changing their status from active to associate.

Barbara Boster encouraged all members to submit news articles and photos for publication in the Forget Me Nots Newsletter.

Betsy Bingham gave some background information on the Founder's Fund. She said that OGC won second place in 1986 & 1987 for a Heather Farms Project. A Fall Committee has chosen the finalist for this year and we will vote on them at the next meeting. The top national winner will be

awarded \$30,000 for their project and the second place winner will be awarded \$10,000. The three finalists include: The Historic Washington Garden at the Old North Church, Boston, MASS, Building Sustainability at Hartford's Historic Keney Park in Connecticut, and The Wetlands Education Center at Cattail Marsh, Houston, TX.

Membership

Vice President **Cathleen Sodos** said that the deadline for proposing new members is March 15th. Application forms are available online at the OGC website. Each candidate needs two co-sponsors and four endorsers (one may be an associate.) To date, no applications have been submitted.

Ruth Fortune explained her tablescape was to encourage members to sign up for the mini luncheons after the 3/24/16 meeting. Her elaborate tablescape portrayed Springtime in Paris celebrating Degas birthday. **Ruth** gave prizes to **Catherine Dunne** and **Barbara Boster** who have already volunteered to host a mini luncheon. Please contact **Ruth** to sign up. A flyer encouraged members to express their personal style. She encouraged the use of favors, candles, napkin rings, place cards, menus etc.

Nancy Dickmeyer reported that the next Holiday Party will be Friday, December 3, 2016. The entire first floor of Orinda Country Club will be utilized for wreath making, tea and party.

Education

Sue Andersen-Berger invited us to participate in Partners 4 Plants: Tuesday, March 8, 2016; meet at noon in the OCC pool parking lot. **Margie** requested that all members attend at least one Partners 4 Plants this year. **Sue** announced a Hort meeting at Sandra Holland's house on Thurs., March 10, 2016, beginning at 10:00 am and featuring Bees with Mike Vigo AND a propagation take home project using seeds from poppies, basil etc.

Laura Sawczuk encouraged us to help her report all pollinator plants in our gardens to GCA who is doing a project to insure survival of pollinators. **Lynn Garrett** asked to include a list of pollinators to be posted in the FMNs and in the e-mail asking for what pollinators we have in our gardens. **Margie** added that **Linda Thompson** and **Kristen Whitsett** are in Washington D.C. now for the National Affairs and Legislation Conference.

Dena Raffel said that she will set up visiting garden tours for members on

vacation. She also noted that there is still room in the Portland Visiting Garden Trip. Next year will include trips to: Sweden, Portugal, Nashville etc. She noted the July 19 and July 26 Behind Adobe Walls is a great trip and she can set up addition private garden tours in the area. She wants to organize local visiting garden trips to Santa Barbara in April and Colorado Springs, Colorado, in September. Members were enthusiastic about the proposed trips.

Yoni Mayeri announced her 3/22/16 Photo Walk Workshop will be held in the Botanical Gardens in Tilden. Participants should be in the OCC pool parking lot at 8:00 am for an 8:30 to about 11:00 photo workshop.

Nita Roethe said that we will focus our work on the triangle on Sat., 4/23/16 Orinda In Action Work Day. She noted that the off ramp has been weeded and the bulbs are coming up. The Median Strip Project will be involved with Cal Trans. Orinda's Parks and Rec Michelle Lacey said the Cal Trans plan will be ready soon. A sycamore tree formerly in the triangle was taken down by P.G. & E. as a line clearing job. **Nita** feels that P.G. & E. should grind down the stump to 18 inches below the earth so we can re plant the area. Sabrina from the Miramonte Women's Basketball Team has been identified as the top player in the Nation.

New Business

Ruth Fortune asked if we can re allocate the Median Strip funds to another project and **Margie** said that she wasn't ready to give up on the project. **Our "Orinda in Bloom" funds are earmarked for the medians downtown. For this reason we are continuing to work towards making this project a reality.**

The business meeting was adjourned at 10:35 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Louise Diracles, OGC Recording Secretary

After the business meeting, we joined the Piedmont Garden Club for a demonstration of floral design by Michael Daigian and his assistant. The arrangements were raffled off as well as a \$400 credit for Nina Mclemore. Lunch followed on the terrace with a fashion show by Nina Mclemore. Tina Locke, Sandy Barnett, Marie Krenz, and three Piedmont members modeled the clothes.

Upcoming Dates:

- March 8th Partners for Plants 12:00 Carpool from lower OCC Lot
- March 10th (new date) Bees with Mike Vigo at Sandra Holland's 10:00
- March 14th Bouquets 10:30
- March 15th New Member Plant Propagation with Joyce and Sue
- March 17th Board Meeting Arrive at 3:15 Home of Anita Hughes
- March 22nd Photography Workshop with Yoni March 24th
- March 24th General Meeting at OCC 9:30 Social/10:00 Mini Luncheons to follow