

Orinda Garden Club
General Meeting Minutes

Thursday, October 22, 2015

Orinda Library Auditorium

10 a.m. Social, 10:30 a.m. Program/Meeting-Roll Call

Welcome

President Margie Murphy welcomed everyone. She outlined some of the community activities by the Orinda Garden Club.

Catherine Dunne introduced today's speaker, OGC member, Shari Bashin-Sullivan of "Enchanting Planting"

Shari spoke about the "Art of Transformation" and showed slides of beautiful gardens, before and after. She discussed how these transformed gardens can be livable, sustainable, and beautiful and said that sometimes, the smaller gardens are the most challenging to transform.

Shari stated that many things will improve the quality and beauty of a garden, from the access to the front door, to organized planting and reducing a variety of materials, to assuring privacy issues. She acknowledged the work of her greatest support, her husband Richard, and many other employees. Shari announced that the Garden Club's next project will be the restoration of the medium strips.

Catherine thanked Shari for the wonderful presentation.

Meeting

The September minutes were approved as written.
Attendance sheets were passed around for "roll call".

Treasurer's Report

Sandy reported that the "numbers" are unchanged. She reminded us to read the FMN as Jean puts each monthly report on the website.

FMN Newsletter

Barbara reminded the members to send all communication to Deb at forgetmenots@orindagc.org
Deb collects the information and then Barb and Devon are assembling it for our FMN. The articles need not be long and the format has been streamlined. Ruth will assist with editing.

Membership Report

Beautification

Kathy French announced for Mary Ellen and thanked Marty for her work and creativity in making the scarecrows by the off-ramp and in town. Many people assisted in making the city so beautiful for the autumn season.

She also reported that Nita attended the mayor's meeting and stated the superintendent of schools in Orinda is resigning. Also, the city is planning to install solar panels in all schools. She announced that Del

Rey won a Blue Ribbon School High Achievement award and will be acknowledged at an award ceremony in December in Washington D.C. Lastly, fire stations will be handing out sandbags this fall and winter.

Kathy reported that Joyce will have about 1000 bulbs to plant at the off-ramp site.

Bouquets

Chris Stoneberg announced that Bouquets meets every second Monday of the month at 10:30 a.m.

On December 14, we will meet at the Community Center for assembling the small bouquets and decorating two small Christmas trees for the nurses' stations. Please check the Newsletter.

Merchandise sales will resume November and December. Nov. 19, we will get a chance to see the jewelry designs of Carmel Priolla and Jane will show Sara Oliver handbags. There will be many items for stocking stuffers and the holidays.

General Meeting

Pam and Sugar will be planning the refreshments for the guest day in November. If anyone needs tables for projects, please alert Pam or Sugar.

Holiday Party

Nancy and Nath announced our Dec. 3 Holiday Party theme – “Let the Season Sparkle”. Reminder: we meet for wreath assembly at 8:30 a.m. and “elves” are needed, so please sign up.

Following the Tea, our eight new members will be displaying their “tablescapes” in the Orinda Room for members and guests to view.

Please submit your reservation for the evening party. Write your check and send to Julie O’Melveny, 326 La Espiral.

Check the website for the beautiful online invitation.

Education Report

Visions

Carole and Marty announced our January 20 meeting for the six-club meeting at the Greek Orthodox Church in Oakland. Please note this is a Wednesday.

The mission statement is fostering collaboration and restore and protect the S.F. Bay. Bay Visions has educated and supported ongoing conservation. Robert Ketchum is the tentative speaker.

If you are interested in lunch, please send a check for \$25 to Carole Wolfman. Guests are welcome.

Speaker Program

Catherine announced that S. Dundee, floral designer, will be the speaker for the Nov. 19 General meeting. Guests are encouraged. If you want to stay for lunch, contact OCC for a reservation.

Partners for Plants (P4P)

Linda T. announced that the first planting meeting is Tuesday, Nov. 10. There will be a carpool at 11:30 a.m. from OCC parking lot. Bag lunches will be provided. The time frame is 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. If it rains, this planting day may be re-scheduled.

Hort/Conservation

Laurie S. thanked Sue for hosting the tomato extravaganza! 24 ladies participated and enjoyed a memorable day and delicious lunch.

She reminded us that it is time to nominate a native plant for the Freeman Medal. This year’s category is “Herbacious”. Meetings will be held for discussions and suggestions.

The next meeting for Hort/Cons is Nov. 3 at Laura S. home at 10 a.m. Joyce will be speaking on forcing paper whites and bulbs will be available for sale. Please bring your checks. Libby, the "Bulb Buyer", of Orchard Nursery will speak about edible bulbs.

Shirley Meneice Horticulture Conference

Lisa J. and Sue were our representatives to the conference held in Seattle. It was a fabulous emersion in botanical education and horticulture. They toured the Bellevue Botanical Garden. Please see the FMN for details. One speaker was Dan Hinkley, who travels the world looking for plants. Monrovia Gardens carries his plants. There were many wonderful stories from individuals, especially from Liz Gabor, who bought milkweed with hopes to attract the Monarch butterflies. She recommends "native" not "broadleaf". Members from the conference shared seeds and Sue brought some home for Garden Club members.

Local news

Gina reminded us about a petition circulating to improve the city downtown by presenting a formal plan. Currently, there are 670 signatures. If interested, look in FMN for the petition to sign.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Janet Formanek

Important Upcoming Dates:

Nov. 12 Board Meeting at Chris Stoneberg's house; 3:15 p.m. arrive, 3:30 p.m. meeting, 4:30 social.

Nov. 19 General meeting and Guest Day at OCC; 9:30 social, 10 a.m. meeting/program.