

Orinda Garden Club
General Meeting Minutes
Thursday, November 17, 2016
Orinda Country Club
9:30 Social, 10:00 Meeting

President **Margie Murphy** called the meeting to order and welcomed all the members and their guests. With no corrections, **Judy Gray** moved that the minutes from the October, 2016 meeting be approved as emailed, and **Kris Anthony** seconded.

Sandy Barnett spoke first for Beautification and Community Affairs. She thanked **Nita Roethe** for facilitating the planting of the three flowering plum trees. Sandy attended the Orinda Mayor's meeting and stated that they appreciated our Scarecrows and were looking forward to our Wreath's Around Orinda. She announced that the Christmas Fair is celebrating its 40th year and will be at the Orinda Community Center this Saturday, November 19th. **Nita Roethe** thanked all that made the scarecrows this year by presenting them with a Scarecrow picture book. The book was dedicated to Marty DeJonghe, who started this project. A copy of the book was also given to the DeJonghe family and to Ray Horton who has been making all the heads for the scarecrows.

Lynn Garrett and **Julie O'Melveny** informed all the guests about Bouquets. They explained that for 50 years we have been making flower arrangements once a month for the County Hospital. These spread so much joy to the patients. In December, we will bring them two decorated trees along with the bouquets.

Kirsten Whitsett and **Linda Thompson** reported for Conservation. On January 12 a trip to see the Monarch butterflies at the Monarch Bay Golf Course in San Leandro is planned. Lunch will be at Horatio's at the San Leandro Marina. They informed the guests that in 1957 we adopted the Penny Pines restoration program. The Penny Pines Program has planted 27 million seedlings, renewing 88,000 acres of National Forest in California that were destroyed by drought or fires. On November 15th, fifteen

members went to the John Muir National Historic Site in Martinez. It was a very interesting tour of his Victorian home. Here he wrote about the journey of his life, how he battled for conservation, and how he changed the way our country viewed our wilderness. Linda also recounted the Bay Vision tour of Arrowhead Marsh and the Partners for Plants meeting she attended. She said we should feel good about this shoreline restoration project. The native plants we propagated and planted are growing nicely and it is becoming a wonderful bird watching area. Our group helped purchase and distribute 20 cubic yards of compost. Margie encouraged all of us to participate. The next workday for Partners for Plants is January 24. Kirsten announced a date change to June 20-22 for the Trip to the Redwoods with the Piedmont Garden Club.

M.J. Walburg and **Judy Shallat** thanked everyone for getting their checks to them for the Holiday Party. They met with the chef and planned an incredible menu. They reminded everyone that wreath making starts at 8:30, the Tea is from 10:30- 12:00, and the dinner is at 6:00. They have several surprises and entertainment planned.

Tina Locke passed around the sign-up sheet for wreath making on Friday, December 2nd at 8:30 and the hanging of the wreaths the next morning, Saturday, December 3rd. The Boy Scouts and their Dads will be helping.

Louise Diracles and **Marlene Hallenberger**, the Fundraising chairmen, invited our guests to “Tea in the Garden” on May 11, 2017. There will be five fabulous gardens, a market place for shopping, and five of our members will be creating a tablescape with a floral arrangement for each garden. The money raised goes to the Beautification of Orinda – the Triangle, Pots around town, etc. They thanked all who have volunteered for the different jobs but they still need an Auction Chairman and a few more hostesses. Sign-ups were passed around. The cocktail party will be at Dayna Sayres’ lovely home and garden.

Ruth Fortune, **Ann Cindery**, and **Laurie Goetzl** explained that they are trying to support women when they select items for Merchandise Sales and our purchases will also help fund our Beautification of Orinda projects. There will be an opportunity to shop at the Tea on December 2nd. They displayed and announced a few of their items – Whimsical cards by a local

artist, fun ceramic mushrooms, \$10 felt purses made by a woman in Nepal, and colorful bracelets.

Barb Boster and **Devon Sherwood** thanked Jean Rowe for her editing of the Forget-Me-Nots newsletter. There will be no newsletter in December but they announced all the December events and asked for photographs.

Reminder that the February meeting in Piedmont was changed to Feb. 15th!

Catherine Dunne introduced floral demonstrator, Soho Saki. Soho holds the highest teaching rank of Ikebana and many prestigious awards. She is a nationally and internationally respected demonstrator and teacher. In Orinda she is a much loved and respected teacher of several of our garden club members and an honorary member of OGC. She entertained us while she made amazing arrangements and taught us several lessons – Plants are like a marriage; you must find a partner/ plants that go together. Create space/ 3 dimensions. Less is More. Line, mass, and color are important elements. Her arrangements were raffled.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15.

Respectfully submitted,
Margene Stahle