

Orinda Garden Club
General Meeting Minutes

Thursday, October 20, 2016

Orinda Country Club

9:30 Social, 10:00 a.m. Meeting/ Speaker

President **Margie Murphy** called the meeting to order and said that the most exciting part of her job is to watch all that we do – our creativity, intelligence, organizational skills make us a superior group of women. Two recent events were very successful. Twenty members went to Cornerstone in Sonoma and had a fabulous day. Phoebe Kahl and Diana Kennedy taught us how to make lovely Fall Centerpieces this past Tuesday. Margie thanked us all for all we do.

There were two corrections to the September 22, 2016 general meeting minutes. The spelling of Michael Stehr, our March guest speaker, was corrected. Louise Diracles said that the vote was unanimous for the Fund Raiser Tea but it was 48 unanimous not 68. Jane Ryan made a motion to approve and Suanne Inman seconded.

Julie O'Melveny reported for Treasure DD Felton. Nothing much has changed. The board voted to reimburse Shari Bashin-Sullivan \$890, the amount she paid for the drawings of the Orinda Downtown median plan. We are so thankful for all Shari has done over the years – planting the downtown pots and now all the work she is doing for this median project.

Cathleen Sodos and **Barbara Boster** introduced our newest member, Gwen Manfrin. Gwen was not here in September to be presented because she and her husband were in Mexico nurturing baby turtles as they hatched. Gwen is an accomplished artist and photographer. She has served on the Orinda Arts council, Lafayette Community Garden, San Francisco MOMA Arts Circle, and several other groups. We are going to appreciate her energy and talents! Cathleen also announced that it isn't too early to start looking for new members for next year.

Nita Roethe for Beautification reported that the trees for the triangle are at McDonalds Nursery and the city of Orinda will plant them. Dan McDonald recommended a superior non-fruiting variety of Flowering Plum. They are in 24" containers and will be planted as soon as we take care of a little problem. PG&E did not grind down the roots far enough. Nita hopes they will take care of this soon and do a little more cleanup. Nita also thanked all those that participated in the scarecrow workshop. Two have been stolen but we are trying to retrieve them. Nita recommends we always get help moving the hay bales at the off ramp. This year two strong men from the Public Works Department helped place the hay bales which made the off ramp project so much easier to finish. Julie Parks, Principal of Miramonte High School, has shown interest in getting some of the scarecrows next year.

Julie O'Melveny reported that this month Bouquets was hosted by Carole Wolfman. They had a lovely donation of twenty-five table decorations from a wedding that were also taken to the hospital. Bouquets on November 14 will be at the home of Connie Leach and Deb Stephenson will drive the arrangements.

Kirsten Whitsett and **Linda Thompson** reported for Horticulture. Linda thanked everyone that went to Cornerstone. They all enjoyed the artist inspired Sunset Gardens and a yummy lunch. Kirsten reported on 4 other events:

1. November 15 is the Wetlands Tour in Martinez. We will be led by Educational Specialist from the Alexander Lindsey Museum. In 1974 Martinez directed their water to be treated and then drained into the wetland. It has become a rich habitat for animals, birds, and fish. Departure will be at 9:00 from Orinda Country Club. Lunch will be planned in Martinez.
2. January 12 is a docent tour to see the Monarch Butterflies at the Monarch Bay Golf Course in San Leandro. We will meet at the Orinda Country Club at 9:00 am and have lunch in San Leandro.
3. Partners 4 Plants – Margie is requiring us to all work at least once. We have gone from propagation to cleaning and planting. More details soon.
4. June 13 - June 15 is the Trip to the Redwoods with Piedmont Garden Club. Lunch will be in Garberville on the way to Garden Club of America Grove, where there will be a hike with a ranger. You will also see Founders Grove and Roosevelt Grove before driving to Eureka where you will stay in the Carter House Inn. The next day will be a visit to Prairie Creek State Redwoods Park and then back to Eureka for dinner. Home the next day.

Margie announced that the calendar has been updated on the last page of Forget-Me-Nots through April 13th. Jean Rowe updated the online calendar.

Penny Pines basket was passed around.

Holiday Party – M.J. Walberg and Judy Shallat inspired us to come to the Tuscan Theme Holiday party on December 2nd by playing Pavarotti in the background. Old world charm and warm Italian colors will be the background for our celebration. It will be a busy day. They encouraged all to participate in the wreath making and the Holiday Tea. Cookie bakers and helpers are still needed for the Tea. Designer tables will be displayed and there will be wonderful wares for sale.

Fund Raising Chairs, **Louise Diracles and Marlene Hallenberger** gave an update. Prizes were given to Sugar Filice for knowing the date, May 11, 2017 and to Donna Snow for knowing the name, "Tea in the Garden". They have 5 beautiful gardens. Teacups of violets were given to Mary Read, Margie Murphy, Lisa Stefan, and Lorene Quist to thank them for sharing their gardens. Shari's client is our fifth garden. The Cocktail Party will be at Dayna Sayres' lovely home and garden. Many members have volunteered but two main positions are still open. They still need an Auction Chair and a Plant Propagation Chair. They are asking all of us to

participate in the plant propagation sale. They also need more hostess and baker volunteers. 6 wonderful items have been donated so far for the silent auction.

Joyce Nelson and **Nita Roethe** gave a summary of the 4 days they spent at the Shirley Meneice Conference in New York. At the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, they participated in many educational workshops including planting and protecting heirloom seeds, Orchid growing and collecting, and Sustainable gardens. They toured 4 spectacular properties on the North Shore of Long Island. Joyce passed out seeds she received at the seed exchange to those who wanted to participate in helping protect the Monarch butterflies. Nita read a Rainforest riddle.

Public Relations, **Anne Cinderey**, shared that the LaMorinda Weekly reported Missing Scarecrows on the front page and had a lovely story about Orinda Garden Club and what we are doing around town. Orinda Outlook also published our Scarecrows missing.

Lisa Stefan told us it is time to reorder our Flower Badges. First time cost is \$25. To renew badge it is \$10.

Ann Cinderey and **Ruth Fortune**, who are in charge of Merchandise Sales explained how they had researched sales trends. Lots of members do not have time to shop and price was important. They decided to do something different this year. They will not be selling at each meeting but will be at Guest Day in November and the Holiday Faire in December. There will be fewer items and they will email a shopping list before the meeting and event. They asked to be contacted with new ideas. They also reported that there will be Pop-up Market places in December and in May at our Tea in the Garden. We make 20% of the merchandise sold.

Lyn Garrett for Leslie French and Tina Locke passed around the Wreath signup.

Margie suggested that at the end of each of our meetings we put all the clipboards on a table so anyone who missed a signup could do so.

Sugar Filice from Hospitality asked for a show of hands on how many would be bringing a guest to the November 17th Guest Day meeting.

Calendar update – It was announced that the joint meeting with Piedmont Garden Club meeting was changed to February 15th.

Sandy Barnett announced that today's speaker, Andrea Wulf, would be signing books that she brought from the Orinda Book Store.

Kris Anthony introduced historian and British author Andrea Wulf, who has written many books and Wall Street Journal articles on Nature. Her very interesting discussion was about her new book, The Invention of Nature, which described Alexander von Humboldt. Alexander was an influential scientist of the early 1800's.

Andrea thinks he is important because his inventions and story helps us understand nature. His concept of Nature shapes our way of thinking today. He brought the Arts and Sciences together – We must use our imagination to understand nature.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:50.

Respectfully submitted,
Margene Stahle