

**Orinda Garden Club**

**General Meeting Minutes**

**Thursday, February 22, 2018**

**Orinda Country Club**

**9:30 Social with Piedmont Garden club**

**10:00 separate club meetings**

**11:00 Speaker – John Greenlee**

**Cathleen Sodos, President** called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. With no corrections to the January minutes, they were approved as sent.

**Margie Murphy** presented the candidates to fill the positions opening on the board. **Recording Secretary – Kathy Fernbacher and Leslie French. Corresponding Secretary – Connie Leach. Treasure – Carol Wolfman.** With no nominations from the floor, **Louise Diracles** moved to approve. It was seconded by **Shari Bashin-Sullivan**. All approved.

**Membership - Julie O'Melveny** informed us that there are several members going associate. They are Heather Dunne, Gail Emmons, Lynn Garrett, Judy Shallat, Dona Snow, Carole Wolfman, and Isa Mary Ziegler. Julie has strong candidates coming in. Sponsor, co- sponsor, and 2 letter writers are needed. March 15<sup>th</sup> is the membership deadline.

**Cathleen** reported that there is a By-Laws change in the works which allows associate members to be on the board.

**Founders Fund - Lisa Stefan** gave a little history and then announced that we will be voting on the three civic projects selected as finalists. This year all 3 pertain to children and education. First place award receives \$30,000. The two runners-up both receive \$10,000 each. Each of the 200 clubs cast one single vote. The finalists are: 1. A nonprofit food truck with food supplied from local farms will be a mobile classroom – Lenox, Massachusetts. 2. A kitchen classroom built in a garden – Little Rock, Arkansas. 3. a garden for children with developmental disabilities – Kenilworth, Illinois

**National Affairs and Legislation - Jan Formanek** spoke about the 4<sup>th</sup> policy area reported in the GCA Conservation Watch this year – A proposed 80% Reduction in Land and Water Conservation Fund. This fund covers a lot of our recreational facilities, saves parks and wildlife habitats, and other community conservation priorities. The fund created in 1965 is the primary funding source for federal land acquisitions for conservation and recreation and is slated for a drastic cut when it expires in September 2018 unless the Congress reauthorizes it. The administration is also repealing the Clean Water Rule/stream protection rule, which supports water and pollution reduction and the administration is struggling to save the US Coal industry. Environmentalists push is to reduce coal use and switch to renewable energy because of the many hazards of coal ash.

**Ann Cinderey and Jane Wisner** will be representing us in Washington next week at the NAL conference.

**Partners to Plants - Laurie Smith** reported that on March 8<sup>th</sup>, our Bay Vision group will be going to Sacramento to lobby for funding for Bay restoration and urban greening. March 13 is our next Save the Bay clean-up/planting day from 12:30-2:30.

**Beautification and Community Affairs - Nita Roethe** reported the off ramp was weeded by her gardeners. She **thanked Andy and Carole Amstutz** for pruning the fruit tree in the off ramp each year. She also thanked the secret santa that places a Christmas tree there every year. Nita announced that **Janet Riley** is the Orinda Citizen of the year. Her appreciation dinner will be March 11.

Nita also presented a new idea for spending our Beautification Fund. Miramonte high school has a new Horticulture elective class. They have 6 fruit trees, berries and 6 raised planting areas. Their produce goes to the international cooking class that donates food to local people in need. A Blue Apron type box was donated to an Afghanistan family in Danville. They are learning about soil science, how to deal with pests, pollination, and environmental science issues. The principal gave us a wish list of a tool shed and a green house. Three plans for the greenhouse have been presented to the district. We hope to donate \$3-4,000 but Nita will try to get more information to discuss again. She is also working with the Orinda Community Foundation to get other donations.

**Rose Garden, Sue Andersen-Berger** – Thanked everyone who pruned. The next trimming will be April 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Flower Show Annual Meeting – Phoebe Kahl** reported the show is only 9 weeks away. The show will be open to the public on Saturday and Sunday, April 28 and 29<sup>th</sup>. **Diana Kennedy** oversees the Botanical Arts. **Phoebe Kahl and Heather Dunne** are Floral Design. These are both full. **Suanne Inman** is heading Horts and still needs some sign ups. It is best to bring your cuts Friday morning, April 28<sup>th</sup>. The schedule is on GCA and OGC website. Go to the website to get your online entry cards. Orinda News will be publishing information on the event. **Catherine Dunne** is coordinating the volunteers for the Garden Show. She still needs computer people to fill-out entry form information and judge's comments and runners during the judging on Friday, April 27<sup>th</sup> 2:30-6:30. Please email her if you can volunteer. **Margie Murphy** spoke about the Preview Cocktail Party on Friday. There will be a trio to listen to and you can be the first to preview. **Dona Snow** announced that the Harbor Court Hotel still has rooms at a special rate.

**Deb Stephenson** announced that our next meeting will be March 21<sup>st</sup> in the afternoon. 3:30 Social, 4:00 Meeting, and 5:00 program – Amy Stewart, author of *Drunken Botanist*, will speak. Spouse or guest is welcome. There will be a signature cocktail inspired by Amy's book. Everyone is encouraged to stay for dinner. Non-OCC members can pay the club directly.

**Catherine** adjourned the meeting at 10:50.

Orinda and Piedmont Garden clubs came back together for **speaker, John Greenlee. Deb Stephenson** introduced him as an ornamental grass expert and author of *The American Meadow Garden*. He combines regionally appropriate grasses as fillers with colorful perennials for form rich tapestries that can replace the old-fashioned lawn.

Respectfully submitted,

Margene Stahle

OGC Recording Secretary

