

Orinda Garden Club
Minutes of the general meeting
Wed., March 21, 2018
At the Orinda Country Club

President Cathleen Sodos welcomed members and called the meeting to order at 4:01 pm. She entertained corrections but having none presented declared the February general meeting minutes approved as sent. She announced that the GCA Annual Meeting will wow us with Gail Emmons vision and Janet Riley's organization. Cathleen announced that there will be no April general meeting so everyone can focus on the GCA Annual Meeting. She gleefully reported that the City of Orinda has received their encroachment permit from Cal Trans and the media project will go out to bid and may begin this spring.

Lisa Stefan reported that the GCA Founders Fund will award \$30,000 to the first place winner and \$10,000 to the second place winner. Lisa distributed, collected and counted the ballots from the membership and OGC's choice will be:
Roots Rising: A Food Truck and Financial Stability proposed by the Lenox Garden Club from Zone I. The food truck will be a mobile classroom for at risk teens.

Janet Riley outlined the proposed new by-law amendments. They will: provide for flexibility in leadership and inclusion for membership, create a six month president elect position, allow for co-positions, create a policy for transfer, allow associates and sustainers to hold offices and/or sit on the board, excused absences may be requested of the president and/or the corresponding secretary. She moved and _____ seconded the motion:

That upon the recommendation of the Board and By-Laws Committee, the Active members approve the Proposed By-Laws and Standing Rules of the Orinda Garden Club (dated March 21, 2018).

Rationale: The Board and By-Laws Committee propose the changes for the purpose of leadership development, member inclusion and member retention.

The motion was approved by the membership.

Nita Roethe reported that Sat., 4/21/18, will be Orinda Action Day and encouraged members to participate. She announced that the OGC plague has come loose. Nita moved and Sandy Barnett seconded the motion to donate \$2,000 to the Miramonte green house horticulture project.

Bobbie Wilson distributed, collected and counted the ballots and the motion passed.

Lisa Jorgens and Linda Thompson announced a hort program on April 17, 2018, from 10:00 to 11:30 at Sue Berger Andersen's home with Piedmont's Byrn and Jennie on creating floral arrangements from the garden. Also featured at that meeting will be **Suanne Inman** who will assist with OGC Annual Meeting Flower Show entries. On May 15, 2018, from 8:45 am there will be a Hort Field Trip to Quarry Hill Gardens which was spared by the wine country fires. It's a bit hilly but carts will be available if reserved ahead of time. Speaking of fire safety, they announced that Orinda brush must be reduced and a chipper will be available curbside. They reported that Bill McNamara will be a GCA Honorary member.

Ann Cinderey announced that she and Jane Wiser attended the NAL convention in Washington DC. which was very informative about conservation, the environment issues and climate change. Of the 300 garden club members present, 47 were from Zone XII. The Antiquities Act, National Park funding and the Cosmetics Bills were hot topics. They met with Mark DeSaulier, aides for Diane Feinstein and Kamila Harris. The environment seems to take backstage to other current issues such as immigration, gun control and health care. Ann especially like presentations by Henry and Amy Paulsen from the Nature Conservancy, Donna Brown formerly an editor from House and Garden magazine, and Jeremy Grantham, a philanthropist for climate. Jeremy believes that Africa's population will grow dramatically and its temperatures may reach 130 degrees making life difficult and ripe for migration. Ann knows that there are practical steps that we all can do to help manage the environment.

Laurie Smith reported with two hats from Bay Visions and Partners for Plants. She attended the Bay Visions in Sacramento where they had meetings with aides of Steve Glazier. There are legislative proposals to fund Prop 68, Cal Trans Trash Compliance to pick up things before they go into the Bay. On January 10, 2019, there will be a Bay Visions meeting including all six garden clubs at the Oakland Greek Orthodox Church. Laurie said that at the last Partners for Plants work day, there were 4 Piedmont and 3 Orinda participants. She encouraged members to participate on April 10, 2018.

Kris Anthony congratulated Janet Riley again on being chosen the Orinda Citizen of the Year. She read the OGC mission statement and explained that the club gives \$3,000 for scholarships for Merritt College and UC Berkeley who are pursuing academics in horticulture. This year the colleges' department chairs will pick the winners. National GCA also awards \$130,000 in scholarships to 86 students.

Laura Sawczuk announced that there are still some spaces left for the GCA visiting gardens in Sante Fe, NM this July 15th. She reported that Piedmont Garden Club will invite 16 participants to their 5 garden tour on May 8, 2018, from 10-2 for \$20.

The GCA Annual Meeting/Flower Show committee came forward: **Janet Riley, Gail Emmons, Margie Murphy, Nancy Dickmeyer, Suanne Inman, Jean Rowe, Heather Dunne, Diana Kennedy and Phoebe Kahl**. Janet encouraged everyone to invite their friends on the public days to the flower show: April 28 & 29. Look for an article late March publicizing the event. Janet reported for Catherine Dunne that there are volunteer opportunities still available. Suanne asked all members to consider entering a cut specimen for the show. She suggested we cut a stem a week ahead to see how it opens. She suggested that we bring extra stems to the show. On 4/17/18 Suanne will help you get your entry form in order. Janet is hosting two trainings for volunteers. Margie said that ALL volunteers must pick up their name tags, wear their scarf and apron. Margie has received checks for members and their guests to attend the cocktail party 4/27/18. She needs the \$30 check per person made out to OGC by 4/15/18. Note volunteers must sign up online.

New Business

Sandy Barnett announced an author luncheon at Orinda Books, on Wed., March 28, 2018, at 11:30. The book is "Grow What you Love." RSVP: 254-7606

Mary Read asked for volunteers to bring flowers to the Orinda library. OGC is responsible for the summer months of June, July and August.

Sugar Filice asked Cathleen to announce that the May meeting will be held at D.D. Felton's home in Piedmont rather than the Lafayette Reservoir. No OGC general meeting in April.

Louise Diracles showed the Save the Date postcard for the Lafayette Gardens Tour, Saturday, May 12, 2018, from 10:00-3:00. Tickets are \$40 or 4 tickets for \$140. Go to :

www.lafayettegardenclub.com

Or mail your check with a self addressed stamped envelope to:

Lafayette Garden Club, P.O. Box 294, Lafayette, CA 94549. They complimented our club on our 5/11/17 garden tour and have incorporated many of the ideas.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:04

Deb Stephenson introduced our speaker Am Stewart, author of The Drunken Botanist. This is Amy's fourth time to speak to the OGC.

Respectfully submitted,

Louise Diracles, substitute secretary