

**Orinda Garden Club
General Meeting Minutes
Thursday, October 26, 2017
Orinda Country Club
9:30 am social, 10:00 am Meeting**

Welcome - President, Cathleen Sodos called the meeting to order and thanked everyone for their participation in the September events. She designed our meeting today to talk about “Us.” – What do you want from the Garden Club experience? Are we fulfilling your needs? Cathleen accomplished two of her goals. One was to streamline communication. She started the Virtual Clipboard for signups. Before the start of our meetings, please come early to talk to the committee chairs and learn about activities that are planned. We are also now receiving Weekly Updates to keep us informed of upcoming activities.

Suanne Inman corrected the date of the Horticulture workshop to Nov. 2nd not the 7th. **Yoni Mayeri** moved that the corrected September 2017 minutes be approved and **Jane Ryan** seconded.

Membership Report - Julie O’Melveny welcomed two new members who were not at the September meeting. **Bonnie Miller** was introduced by her sponsors, **MJ Walburg** and **Janet Riley**. **Kathy Fernbacher** was introduced by her sponsor, **Tina Locke**.

Holiday Tea – Jane Ryan announced the name of the Holiday Tea will be “Let the Holidays Begin” and thanked **Devon Sherwood** for her invitation design. On December 1st we will first have the wreath making and then the tea. **Jenifer Brunk** and **Jane Wisner** are creating the decoration for the tea tables with the new members and their sponsors. Members were encouraged to ask their friends to the tea. Cost is \$9 a person. Volunteers are needed to make cookies and tea sandwiches and to pour and replenish platters. Please sign-up on the virtual clipboard.

Holiday Tea Boutique - Gwen Manfrin, and Lisa Kovolik announced there will be four great vendors for holiday shopping.

Wreaths Around Orinda – Tina Locke and Leslie French reminded us that the wreath making will begin at 8:30 am on Friday, December 1st. The wreaths will be hung the next day. Meet at the Bank of America parking lot at 9:00 am. There will be donuts, coffee, and hot cocoa. Bring your husbands and sign up on the virtual clipboard.

By-Laws Report – Janet Riley announced that she and her committee, **Kris Anthony, Lynn Garrett, Laura Sawczuk and Sandy Barnett** are discussing a new position called President Elect. This would give the Vice President an option of not becoming the next President and not having the four-year commitment. The President Elect would be elected if the Vice President decided that she did not want to become President. She would have a 6-month term starting in January to set up her programs and get her board together. Janet welcomes your ideas and thoughts.

Program Report – Deb Stephenson reported that Max Gill will do a floral design presentation at our November 16th Guest Day meeting. He is best known for his work at Chez Panisse where he does their flowers and his floral services for special events. Deb asked everyone to let her know if there is a topic you would like to know more about for future programs.

Beautification – Nita Roethe thanked all the scarecrow makers. She also thanked **Kirsten Whitsett** who bought all the pumpkins and **Judy Shallat** who organized the hanging of the scarecrows. Nita announced that two people requested a weeding party so she will be organizing one.

Connie Leach explained her paper flower workshop which will be after Bouquets on November 13th. Bring scissors. Connie will provide the materials.

Bay Visions - Laurie Smith reported that 17 members went on the Tour of the Potomac with five other garden clubs. She shared some of the interesting stories. On November 14, Partners for Plants will work with the Piedmont Garden Club to weed and transfer plants.

National Affairs and Legislation – NAL Nugget - Jan Formanek and Janet Riley represented OGC and met with our representatives and state senators at the NAL annual meeting in Washington DC. NAL was created in 1970 to address concerns of environmental legislation and keeps the GCA membership current on federal policy initiatives. The GCA offered eight position papers that encourage restoring, improving and protecting the quality of the environment through education, conservation and funding. Governments are trying to limit the amount of greenhouse gases emitted by human activity to the same levels that trees, soil, and oceans can absorb naturally. Rich countries will help poorer nations adapt to climate change and switch to renewable energy. Jan encouraged us to go to the GCA website and look at CONWATCH, the GCA publication for more information

Conservation – Maureen Hallenberger reminded everyone that the Conservatory of Flowers is on November 3rd. There will be a docent tour and a special exhibit called Butterflies and Blooms.

2018 Annual Meeting and Flower Show - Many activities are planned for this big meeting. **Yoni Mayeri** spoke about the photography show at our November guest day titled “Close to Home.” Friday, October 27th is the deadline to notify **Lisa Stefan** that you want to participate. There are 3 classes: Autumn, Close-up of a Bloom, and Garden Pattern in monochrome. Matted pictures go to **Janet Riley** by November 10th. Yoni also announced that the Piedmont Garden Club is doing a photography workshop on Nov 7th from 9-11:30. **Janet Riley** said we still need calligraphy and typists. We will receive and email telling us to sign up for hostess shifts. **Diane Kennedy** did a workshop on botanical art on October 24th.

Horticulture – Lisa Jorgens and Linda Thompson reported that Stephanie Bittner’s Harvest presentation on October 18th was really fun! At our next general meeting, Bill the Bulb Baron will be there with his bulbs. Let Linda know ahead of time what you would like to order. There will also be \$10 bags of bulbs to purchase for hostess gifts. **Joyce Nelson** asked if anyone was interested in her ordering paperwhite bulbs again.

Today’s Program – Deb Stephenson explained our program today was to find out “About Us.” We divided in groups and discussed three topics: Club Purpose, Club Communication, and Club Decision Making.

Cathleen Sodos adjourned the General Meeting at 11:35 am.

Respectfully Submitted,
Margene Stahle,
OGC Recording Secretary.

