

**Orinda Garden Club
General Meeting Minutes**

Thursday, September 28, 2017

Connie Leach's Home

10 am Social/ Event Sign-up, 10:30 am Meeting, Lunch to follow

President's Message:

Cathleen Sodos, OGC President, began the meeting at 10:33 am. She welcomed the group, including attending Associate Members, and thanked **Connie Leach** for hosting the September General Meeting at her beautiful home. She thanked **Margie Murphy** for leading us with great humor for the past 2 years, and for mentoring her as well. Thanks were also extended to **Louise Diracles** and **Marlene Hallenberger** for their hard work on the OGC Garden Tour in May, and to **Jan Formanek** for updating the annual Green Book. **Cathleen** also thanked all Chairs for their hard work over the summer, planning the terrific programs for the year ahead. **Donna Derr** is returning as an Associate Member. Minutes stand as emailed to the membership, with no changes.

Cathleen identified 3 goals for the year ahead-

-Limit email blasts to 1/week. There will now be links to all event sign ups online, via Virtual Clipboards. If a member is not sure how to complete a sign up on the Virtual Clipboard, a phone call works too. For members with an event, contact **Laurie Goetzl**, who will set up a Virtual Clipboard for members to sign up on.

-Community Service: the movie documentary by Paul Cox, titled **Toxic Puzzle**, will be shown, open to the public, October 4, at the Orinda Theater. It is a sold-out event. Scarecrows, hay bales and pumpkins will be arranged by OGC and displayed for the general public at the freeway off ramp again this year. We maintain decorative planted pots around Orinda as in the past, as well as maintaining the "Triangle Garden" opposite Orinda Motors.

-Friendship-get to know each other! Reach out to new members, or others you may not know yet.

The Holiday Tea, and wreath decorating, will take place on December 1. Our evening party will be on February 10 this year, Chaired by **Barbara Boster** and **Ruth Fortune**.

Membership Report:

Julie O'Melveny welcomed the new members at the meeting: **Katie Korotzer**, **Gina Barretta**, **Mary Rotticci** and **Lori Huhn**. They and their sponsors came forward, and their sponsors introduced them to the membership. New members who were not present will be introduced at a

later meeting. **Julie** suggested members think about inviting friends to our open November meeting, and the Tea, with potential new members in mind.

Treasurer's Report:

DD Felton reported that the OGC budget is available online, as well as the September 2017 Treasurer's Report. **DD** informed the members that an accountant has been hired, who can look at our budget status online, but has no access to the funds.

Program Report:

Laurie Goetzl spoke for **Deb Stephenson**. She reviewed the new Virtual Clipboard system for signing up for events, and said that she is available to help anyone who needs help to sign up. She reported that there is a waitlist for the sold out movie **Toxic Puzzle**.

Beautification:

Cathleen Sodos reported for **Judy Shallat** that the annual installation of scarecrows, hay bales and pumpkins will take place Weds, October 4 at 10 am. Please come and help.

Horticulture Report:

Linda Thompson announced that on Oct 18, 9:45 am, at **Lisa Kovalik 's** home, there will be a presentation by Stephanie Bittner about using unusual plants and materials from your garden to make fun and interesting items. Ms. Bittner is the co-designer of the Sunset Test Gardens. Sign up by Virtual Clipboard.

Lisa Jorgens and Shari Bashin-Sullivan described their experiences at the Shirley Meneice Conference in Omaha, Nebraska, titled Jewels of the Plain.

Conservation:

Marlene Hallenberger and Ann Cinderey reported that there will be a docent-led Butterflies and Blooms tour and presentation at the Conservatory of Flowers in Golden Gate Park on Fri, November 3. Lunch to follow. Carpools will leave from OCC at 9:30, sign up on Virtual Clipboard. There will also be a movie presentation in February, details to come later.

Laurie Smith described the trip to San Francisco for Conservation of the Bay/Bay Visions that she, **Cathleen Sodos and Jane Wiser** participated in. Next Tuesday, Oct 3, the tour of the Bay on the USS Potomac will take place, with a speaker and lunch included. Meet at 9:30 at OCC to carpool. Sign up by Virtual Clipboard.

Annual Meeting/Flower Show:

Janet Riley and Gail Emmons are Co Chairs of the Flower Show, in San Francisco in April 2018, the first time in San Francisco since the 1980s. It is titled The Wonders of the West. **Jean Rowe** was thanked for the beautiful job she did on the cover design. **Suanne Inman** encouraged members to participate in the flower show. There will be a Horticulture workshop on Nov 7, to answer questions for anyone interested in entering. Information is available online. **Diana Kennedy** announced that on October 24 at 10 am, at her home, there will be a workshop on botanical art: the Wonders of Gold, Turquoise and Pearls. There is more information available on the OGC website. Sign up by Virtual Clipboard. **Diana** also spoke on judging floral competitions, and the workshop she recently attended in Hawaii. **Connie Leach** reported on and displayed scarves that are available for purchase, to support the GCA Annual Meeting. There are 4 different scarf patterns available. **Yoni Mayeri** announced that the OGC will hold our own unjudged photography show at the November meeting, titled "Close To Home". Details are on the OGC website. **Dona Snow** informed the members that she has a block of hotel room reservations set aside for the GCA Annual Meeting, if anyone plans to spend the night in San Francisco. See her for details.

Jane Wisner presented **Midge Zischke** with a framed award of appreciation honoring her for her 30 years as a member of the Orinda Garden Club. She has been a member since 1987. **Midge** received a long round of applause.

Jean Rowe introduced the OGC to the new blog which is for members only. A Facebook account is required to access and participate in the blog.

Carol Amstutz encouraged members to attend the Olive Festival at Wagner Ranch Nature Area on October 1, from 11:30-4:30.

Cathleen Sodos thanked the Hospitality Team who arranged the details for the meeting today, and adjourned the General Meeting at 11:43 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Ellen Schneider,
OGC Recording Secretary