



## Orinda Garden Club General Meeting Minutes

*Thursday, January 22, 2015, at Orinda Country Club  
3:00 pm meeting, 3:30 program, 4:30 workshop and 5:00 reception*

President Janet Riley welcomed members, wished everyone a Happy 2015, and apologized for the audio visual delay at 3:10 pm. She gave an overview of the afternoon's agenda.

**Treasurer** Sandy Barnett noted that the full financial report is posted on OGC website. Sandy noted that most members have signed up for a flower mart badge. It cost \$25 for a new badge and \$10 for a renewed badge. Contact Sandy as soon as possible with your check if you want to participate.

A clip board was passed around to sign up for **Rose Committee's** major pruning on Monday, Jan. 26, 2015, at 9:00 am and/or Wed., Feb. 4, 2015. The Nov. minutes stand approved as e mailed. Janet Riley announced the receipt of two **grants**: \$600 for the joint garden clubs to clean up behind the Shell Station and \$500 for OGC to prepare for the July 4<sup>th</sup> and Car Show events. She said that the **GCA Annual Meeting will be held in 2018** at the San Francisco Hyatt Regency. OGC hopes to run the flower show committee chaired by Gail Emmons. Janet said there will be two **nominating** committees. One chaired by Carole Wolfman and one by Margie Murphy who will conduct a survey after the workshop about what each member would like to do next year. If any member would like to also pursue a position on Zone XII or GCA please contact Janet. Joyce Nelson said it is a wonderful experience. Jane Ryan reported that the **holiday party** came out with 120 participants and about \$2,000 profit. Thanks to members, spouses and the boy scouts all **wreaths** were taken down on January 3, 2015. Dona Snow announced the March 1, 2015, deadline for members to change their **OGC status** and March 15, 2015, deadline for sponsorship. Anita Hughes said the **mini luncheons** will be held after the general meeting on March 26, 2015. There will be about seven hostesses and co-hostesses and 60 participants. Margie Murphy asked all members to get back to her by returning the questionnaire by Jan. 31, 2015, with their choice for an office, a standing committee and a special committee. Cathleen Sodos announced that the **OGC Garden Tour will be called "Orinda in Bloom,"** and will be held in five amazing gardens on May 7, 2015. It will be limited to 500 participants. There will be a boutique and optional lunch offered at the Orinda Country Club. Dona Snow and Deb Stephenson will do an online auction. Every two years OGC members must raise \$15,000 to make our annual contributions to outside organizations. Cathleen moved and Pamela Croce Goode seconded, that as recommended by the Board of Directors, each active OGC member shall be required to purchase four tickets at \$50 each for a total of \$200 as her ways and means obligation for the May 7, 2015 Garden Tour. The motion passed. A major donor component may be developed later. Midge Zischke and Pamela Stefan said we shall vote for three **GCA Founders Fund grant proposals** at our February meeting. Joan Andrews said that OGC received second place in the Nation for the **Freeman Medal** for our entry of the *Arctostaphylos Densiflora* 'Howard McMinn.' Joan was a student at Mills College when Howard McMinn was a professor. More will be discussed at the Hort meeting 1/27/15 at 10 am. Phoebe Kahl said that Piedmont Garden Club will join us on **February 19, 2015, at 9:00 am**, for our next general meeting. Lisa Jorgens said the speakers **Katherine Spitz and Sharn Stinson Ure from Garden Design Forward** will speak about embracing the California drought. Nita Roethe read her Ode to an Elderflower specifying a flower yes but elder no. An elderberry champagne cocktail will be served at the reception today. Pam Wiley announced a tour of Lake Merritt, lunch and education on the **Conservation Outing**, Wednesday, February 11, 2015. The lake and the estuary feed into Partners for Plants and Save the Bay projects. M.J. Walburg announced the next **Hort** meeting will be at Margie Murphy's house Tues., 1/27/15, at 10 am. There will be a demonstration on succulents by Patrick from Floral Grubb in San Francisco. Piedmont GC will join us in **Partners for Plants** on Tuesday

February 3, 2015, from 12:30-2:30. Sandra Holland introduced the recipient of our \$1,000 **scholarship**, Julie Lienert who is studying landscape architecture at Merritt College. She grew up on a farm north of Sacramento, worked with non profits and schools and is especially interested in horticulture, design and meeting the challenges of the drought. She will design part of the Richmond Plunge which is heated by solar panels and has the greenest waters of any pool. She complimented OGC and has donated a Valencia Orange Tree for our next raffle.

As there was no New Business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:40 pm when Lisa Jorgens introduced the **speaker Andrea Wulf** from London who was born in New Delhi and raised in Germany. She authored the book, Founding Gardeners; the Revolutionary Generation; Nature and the Shaping of the American Nation. She spoke about how George Washington, John Adams, Thomas Jefferson and James Madison held agriculture high on the list as a symbol of independence from Britain. John Bartram sent hundreds of seeds to Britain from America. Shari Bashin-Sullivan asked what role women played in the founding gardens. Andrea replied that Abigail Adams was responsible for their farm when Adams was away. Martha Washington was responsible for the vegetable gardens and Jefferson's granddaughters tended to his gardens.

**Petra Michel and Dena Raffel led workshops** at the tables of ten. There were two exercises in Botanical Arts and Floral Design done in groups of two. Members were directed to make a broach from dried eucalyptus plants, grape vine and dried agapanthus for Lady Violet Grantham, or an arrangement in a tea cup made up of carnations, Little Ollie Olive and creeping rosemary. Both were treated as if they were in a show. Upon finishing their project, members enjoyed the elderberry cocktail at the **reception**.

Respectfully submitted,  
Louise Diracles, recording secretary

**CALENDAR DATES:**

***January 26 9:00 Heather Farms Rose Pruning***

***January 27 Hort at Margie Murphy's***

***February 4 9:00 Heather Farms Rose Pruning***

***February 11 Tour of Lake Merritt Conservation***

***February 17 3:15 Board Meeting at Laurie Smith's***

***February 19 9:00 General Meeting and lunch***

***The purpose of Orinda Garden Club is educational and charitable and shall be: to stimulate the knowledge and love of gardening, to cooperate in the protection and conservation of our natural heritage and to encourage and assist in the beautification of the community.***