

Orinda Garden Club General Meeting March 13, 2014 Minutes

Welcome to Guest Day - Janet Riley

Janet welcomed everyone to Guest Day and called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m. The February General Meeting Minutes were approved. She reported that the Treasurer's Report is posted on the website. Next week we have five members with entries in Bouquets to Art: Phoebe Kahl, Diana Kennedy, Gail Emmons, Mari Tischenko and Heather Dunne. Wagner Ranch is hosting a Wildlife Festival on April 27. This is a fundraising event to support the Outdoor Education program. Janet is looking into long range planning and how our Club can help support this program. If you ordered a Flower Market Badge, please pick it up from Heather Dunne.

Gardening Tips - Joyce Nelson

Joyce spoke about the 2013 Downy Mildew that is killing Impatiens. This disease/fungus started on the East Coast and has spread across the states. Joyce called local nurseries and the prospects of getting Impatiens, other than the Hybrid Sunpatients, are very slim this year.

Flower Show - Nath Schmicker/Nancy Dickmeyer

Nath and Nancy reported on our Club Flower Show that will take place on Friday, March 28. The Show is open to the public 1-4, followed by a members' cocktail party and dinner at Orinda County Club at 6:00. The cost is \$80 per person and Ruth Fortune is collecting checks. Anne Hetland is organizing a luncheon for associates and sustainers at noon at OCC before the Flower Show at \$25 per person.

Next Meeting/Mini-Luncheons - Anita Hughes

Anita reported that the Spring Mini-Luncheons will take place after our General Meeting on April 24. Members will enjoy hosted luncheons, of 8-10 people, in members' homes. Sign-ups were passed around.

Conservation Report - Pam Wiley/Judy Shallat

Pam reported that the toxic container pick-up was a huge success. She reported that our Club has been supporting Penny Pines since either 1956. This is for reforestation in the Tahoe area, composed of several different sites. They will be working on a field trip to see the Penny Pines sites. Judy reported on the Save the Redwoods GCA project that has a different redwood grove near Humboldt State University. GCA is trying to pay off the debt for this project, which has been plagued by fire and floods, making much of the area inaccessible. There is a need to replace bridges and collections from our National GCA Clubs across America will save this grove and pay down the debt.

The following motion was proposed and passed:

Save the Redwoods Motion: That upon the recommendation of the Board, the Orinda Garden Club donate \$5000 to the Save the Redwoods League (GCA Grove) as part of the GCA Bridge the Gap

campaign to restore access to the 5,100-acre GCA Grove in Humboldt Redwoods State Park, the world's largest contiguous old growth redwood forest.

Rationale: Recent fire, landslides and storms have made the GCA Grove inaccessible. The gift will help restore trails and bridges so the area can again be used and enjoyed. Our donation will also go toward the remaining costs (approximately \$100,000) of the last parcel purchased in 1972. OGC usually donates \$100-\$200 per year. OGC has sufficient funds to cover this donation.

Judy then reported about the NAL Convention, and proposed that OGC help Save the Bay, not by a political endorsement, but volunteering help with clean-ups. She encouraged anyone who is interested to be a Garden Club representative to NAL next year.

Beautification - Laurie Smith

Laurie encouraged the membership to sign-up for Orinda in Action, which will be held Saturday, April 19, from 9-11:30. Our club will be doing planting.

Founders Fund - Midge Zischke/Pamela Stefan

Midge presented the three Club projects to be voted upon and ballots were passed out. Our Club voted to support Untermyer Park in Yonkers NY sponsored by Zone III Garden Club of Irvington-on-Hudson.

The meeting portion of the meeting ended at 10:40 a.m. Linda Thompson introduced our Guest Speaker, Michael Merritt, owner of Twigery in Carmel-by-the-Sea.

Respectfully submitted,
Laurie Lowery