



**Orinda Garden Club
General Meeting Minutes**

Thursday, May 21, 2015

UC Botanical Garden

9 a.m. Docent Tour, 10:00 a.m. Coffee

10:30 a.m. Meeting

Welcome

Janet welcomed everyone to the annual meeting. She asked that clip-boards, and other sign-up sheet be passed.

Margie reminded us that we all have an obligation to join a standing committee and encouraged the membership to sign up.

Garden Tour Report

Cathleen reported the Garden Tour was a big success. She thanked the home owners who graciously volunteered their gardens for viewing. Upon reflection, it was last June that the discussion began. With many capable members, the process blossomed and “Orinda in Bloom” started to “grow”. Cathleen thanked many people, including June C., Cathleen Waters, Yoni who contributed to the outstanding Program and design. The website and auction online couldn’t have been accomplished without the expert help from Dena. RSVPs and spreadsheet were ably handled by Deb and Mary Ellen. Thank you to Jean R. and Dena for their work in setting up PayPal.

Barb B. was thanked for her work on Publicity, including beautiful signage by the freeway. Carole sent messages to other clubs explaining our Tour. Signage was important and thanks to Jean for her work on banners, stakes, and signage for the homes.

Volunteers headed by Pam and Phoebe were thanked.

Cathleen thanked the home hostesses Shari, Lisa, Sue, Nancy, Jan, Margene and Jean. Silent auction was a success thanks to Dona, Deb and Ruth. A special thank you to Morrison’s Jewelry for their generous donation of an Art Deco diamond necklace, to Chris S. for her Floral Class, to Tina for the beautiful painting, to Cathleen Waters for her water color painting, to M.J. and Judy G. for their Gourmet dinner offering , to Nicole Beauty Bar, and to Margie for the DuMol wines.

Thanks to Jane W. and Chris for setting up vendors at Bertero’s garden.

The Garden Party was a huge success – beautiful, elegant and fun. Thank you to Pat W., Lisa H. and Jean R. for their work on this event.

Thanks to Barbara Llewellyn, DuMol for their contributions. Thank you to Lisa H. for her donation of flower arrangements.

Net proceeds were \$50,000! And with the generous matching contribution of Sylvia and Tim Carter of \$15,000, OGC exceeded their goal and will earmark this money for the Orinda city median restoration.

Shari reported that she met with the Dept. of Public Works and the city will determine how much they will contribute towards clearing and irrigation. The plan is to design and use drought-tolerant plantings from the Wells Fargo Bank down Camino Pablo to Miner Road.

Education Report

GCA Annual Meeting Report

Nancy reported on the annual GCA meeting in Rochester NY. It was entitled “Kaleidoscope – A New York State of Mind”. She remarked that NY has about 12-15 garden clubs who participated and that it was an amazing meeting, bringing capable, strong women together to make a difference. She remarked that GCA has three goals: to create leadership, focus on stewardship of plants, and foster friendships, both locally and nationally. She thanked the club for the proud honor to be the delegate.

Margie reported that she was proud to represent the Club in accepting the Honorable Mention for the Freeman Award on behalf of Joan Andrews. The impetus behind this submission was Dena, Kirsten, Midge and Charlotte.

Introduction of Scholars

Sandra H. introduced two of three scholar recipients: Alexa Bond, UC student with interest in sustainable agriculture, and Mia Hall, Merritt College student studying Nursery Management. Both women thanked the garden club for their generous support.

Flower Show and Judging Program

Phoebe judged the major show in Honolulu and reported that Gail E. won Best in Show in a class named “Spirit” using mechanics of rocks. Gail showed us a photo of her beautiful entry. Gail was also named recipient of the Carol Coffee Swift Medal.

In addition, Heather won First Place in the Challenge category, and Diana won Second Place in the Challenge category. Congratulations to all!

Membership Report

Dona announced that the new members will be introduced in September. They are Marlene Hallenberger, Vanessa Crews, Kris Anthony, Laurie Goetzl, Leslie French, Connie Leach, and Devon Sherwood.

Treasurer’s Report

Sandy reported the dollar amount raised for our Contribution Account.

(See attached document). She reported that all dues have not yet been received but anticipates that the Administration Account and Contributions Account total will be over \$78,000. She thanked Mary Ellen for her support in collecting and sorting the checks.

Committee Highlights (Chairs)

Last month’s minutes were approved as written.

Beautification – Laurie said her favorite part was working with Bobbie and Kirsten. She thanked Marty for her inspiration for the fall display at the off ramp.

Bouquets – Jane and Chris remarked on the 50th anniversary of Bouquets and look forward to the written article in the C.C. Times. They welcome Shari who will be joining next year. Last Bouquets meeting will be at Chris' home June 8.

FMN – Petra took on the FMNs to learn more about interactive PDFs. She also learned a lot about the English language thanks to her proofreader Jane Zuercher. She thanked all the writers who supported the newsletter.

Horticulture – Joyce, M.J. and Charlotte worked together to meet GCA goals in the horticulture program. The interest, turnout and participation made the efforts worthwhile. They look forward to being attendees at next year's Hort programs.

Hospitality – Phoebe and Nita worked well together and became more familiar with club workings, including the bartenders who fashioned the wonderful sample cocktails.

Programs – Linda T. enjoyed working with Lisa J. She highlighted a summary of the year's speakers and thanked everyone for their support.

Conservation – Kirsten thanked Pam and Judy S. who together, emphasized the recycling theme throughout the two years. They planned four field trips with a water conservation theme. She was proud of the new projects – Bay Visions, Partners 4 Plants with the Piedmont Garden Club.

Flower Show – Nancy thanked Nath for her work together for the club show, "In Translation". The biggest highlight was creating the theme with a literary concept. She credited the members with their tremendous help and participation in making the show successful.

President's Report

Janet announced that Sue B. and Lisa J. will be our representatives for the Shirley Meniece event in the fall.

She stated that the Board has approved two changes to the Standing Rules:

The date by which new member applications is due is Feb. 1st for this year only. Going forward, the deadline will be March 15.

The date by which dues are due is currently May 15. The date by which dues are received will be May 1st.

Zone XII has two ladies on the National Board. Missy Jensen has been asked to be National Conservation Chair and Barbara Tuffli has been asked to be National Horticulture Chair.

New Business

Gail announced the theme name for the national meeting in 2018 – "Wonders of the West". She looks forward to our participation and states we have "lots to do".

Janet announced the names of those active members who are changing their status to Associates.

She reported two resignations. Janet honored those members who have died this past year.

Awards

June announced that a Civic Beautification Award, GCA outstanding efforts in Zone XII goes to Shari and Julie.

GCA has a top award, a Medal of Merit, given for contribution, exceptional merit, civic achievement and inspiration of leadership to a member of over 29 years – Phoebe Kahl.

Closing Remarks

Janet stated she likes new and challenging issues and has appreciated the counsel of four past presidents, Carole, Gina, Jenifer and Joyce. Over the past two years, many memories have stood out. Janet stated that there has been more participation by Associates. She acknowledged the contributions of Bouquets, Flower Show, FMN new format, Freeman Medal, Garden Tour, Invest in Orinda, Containers and Re-landscape of the Library, work to be done on the median, I Phone Photography, the P.M. Board meetings, Orinda Action Day presence and collaboration with the community, Adopt a Highway sign, Partners 4 Plants with Piedmont, Program speakers, Scholarships and so much more.

Janet ended by welcoming and passing the gavel to our new President, Margie Murphy.

Incoming President's Report

Margie remarked that she believes in “Quality, not quantity” and looks forward to this next two years. She is encouraged by many to coordinate activities, including Conservation, Hort, and Programs to focus and streamline our efforts. She will meet with the new chairs to discuss options.

Margie announced the new Board members: Bouquets – Shari, Chris; Community Affairs – Nita, Mary Ellen S.; Conservation – Kirsten, Linda T.; FMN – Deb S.; Horticulture – Sue B., Laurie S.; Hospitality – Pam G., Sugar; Programs – Catherine D., Heather D.; Fundraising – Barbara B., Mary R. and D.D. Felton; Flower Show – Diana and Phoebe; Membership (part of V.P.) – Cathleen Sodos, and By Laws – Karen C. and Betsy B.

Margie presented Janet with a beautiful, engraved crystal water pitcher and gift card to Entourage and thanked her for her last two years as President.

The meeting was adjourned at 12 noon.

Respectfully submitted,
Janet Formanek
Recording Secretary