

Orinda Garden Club General Meeting
Thursday, November 14, 2013
Minutes of the Meeting

Meeting was called to order by President Janet Riley at 10:05 a.m.

President's Report – Janet thanked members for all the work they are doing, especially in beautification and education.

Last month, she and M.J. Walburg attended the Shirley Meneice Conference in Washington, D.C. Seeds that Zone XII shares, were brought back from D.C. They are available in the lobby for members.

Janet announced that there is a Freedom Medal award honoring native plants. A committee is set up to submit an entry for this award.

Treasurer – Lisa Stefan announced that everything is on budget. The report is filed monthly along with the minutes. Please check the website. She sent out an email to members who had purchased Flower Mart badges asking if they want to renew the badges. Renewal fee is \$10 and a new badge is \$25. Although the current badges are not expiring until February 1, 2014, please contact Lisa as soon as possible with your requests.

Mayor's Meeting – Amy Worth, Mayor of Orinda, updated us about the opening of the Caldecott Tunnel's 4th bore this coming weekend. At that time, re-striping will begin in the 3rd bore. Much has been accomplished to increase traffic flow and safety while eliminating the off-peak back up traffic. Cal Trans plans improvement in lighting, access and safety for bore 1 and 2 over the next 2-5 years. Please check the website <http://caldecott-tunnel.org/> for photos taken during the building of this new bore. Amy thanked all the members and community for their support.

Wreaths – Sandy Barnett and Mary Read announced that this holiday season, the Orinda Garden Club hosts its third annual "Wreaths Around Orinda". December 5th is scheduled for the wreath decorating. Please arrive at 9 a.m. This is a change of time from the FMN. On Saturday, Dec. 7th, the wreaths will be hung around town with the help of the Boy Scouts. Please sign up. Meet at the Bank of America parking lot at 9 a.m.

Christmas Party - Bobbie Wilson and Pam Goode reminded everyone to purchase their tickets for the tea/coffee and party on Dec. 5th at OCC. The party will be very "home-like" with live entertainment and a cocktail hour and special surprises. It will begin at 6:00 p.m. The formal tea/coffee will be held in the Fairway Lounge at 10:30 a.m. Please send your checks to Judy Gray before the Tuesday before Thanksgiving, Nov. 26.

Raffle – Susie Romak described today's raffle items some of which include a floral basket, Fleur de Lis arrangement, and landscape consultation.

Merchandise – Rhonda Zakshorn showed some holiday merchandise including holiday string lights. Also available for sale are paper whites and Golden Down bulbs.

Hospitality - Phoebe Kahl reminded us of our joint meeting with Piedmont and Marin scheduled for February 11, 2014. The board decided to hire a bus for transportation. Reservations can be

made by including cash or check for \$10. The plan is to leave OCC around 8 a.m. and return by 1 p.m. at the latest. We will have a short meeting on the bus.

Piedmont and Orinda Garden Clubs sponsored Marin Garden club for GCA. It would be nice to make a good showing, so please sign up. The speaker, Dr. Erik Haskell, promises to be very informative.

Long Range Planning - Jenifer Brunk stated that the goal is to “review, explore, and take on a new journey as to what the Orinda Garden Club is about”. We will consider establishing a foundation and finalize ways to utilize the monies for the Memorial Fund.

Conservation - Judy Shallot announced the two ideas that won for creative recycling. Petra Michel-Newton won both awards! She creatively recycled old garments into more useful, current apparel items.

Pam Wiley reminded us to sign up for the November 20 field trip to the Water Treatment Plant. The group will leave OCC around 9:45 a.m. and the tour will last about one hour. She also reminded everyone of the opportunity to recycle old medications at the O.P.D.

Joint Clubs Project – Julie O’Melveny announced the completion of the clearing and re-planting in front of the Library. A flagstone walkway was installed. Thank you to Michelle Lacy (Orinda Parks and Rec) and Shari Bashin-Sullivan for their collaboration and support.

Photography – Cathleen Sodos said the Pier 24 photography tour, hosted by Mary Pilara, was fabulous. She also mentioned the I-Phone photography class was very successful and that a second class is being scheduled. Please email Cathleen if you are interested. The class fee is \$40.

Bouquets – Sheila Wendt announced the next Bouquets meeting is Dec. 9 at the Community Center. Please bring greens (no berries) and red carnations.

Horticulture - M.J. Walburg gave hi-lites and a brief description of the Shirley Meneice event in Washington D.C. Over 180 talented people attended, included Shirley, now in her 90’s. She and Janet toured the First Bonzai Museum and also attended a lecture at the Washington Youth Garden.

Joyce Nelson gave a short tutorial on how to prune hydrangeas. First, know what kind of hydrangeas are in your garden. Four types are: Mophead, Lacecap; Oakleaf; Penniculatus; Snowball.

There are two methods of pruning, depending on the variety of hydrangea. The first is to prune where the blooms are on old wood. This type of pruning is applied to Mophead, Lacecap, or Oakleaf. The second method is used for blooms on new wood.

One variety of hydrangea, which is fabulous and blooms on old or new wood, is “Endless Summer”.

Club Flower Show “In Translation” – Nancy Dickmeyer and Nath Schmicker thanked Linda Thompson and Lisa Jorgens for their work in setting up rooms for today’s teachers. Talented and long-time members will explain the procedure on entering a flower show in the following categories: Horticulture, Photography, and Floral Design. Janet designed the system of rotation and each member was given a card stating the starting category and room.

There are still many categories to enter, so please consider registering for this wonderful opportunity to be an exhibitor. Consult the website for program registration. Committee members will meet Wednesday, November 20 in the OCC Board Room. Please note the change of venue from Nancy's home.

Communications - Petra Michel-Newton thanked all who have written articles. Janet has written about 25% of all the articles in the newsletter. Please submit your articles no later than January 5, 2014.

New Business - Janet mentioned that Dan McDonnell of the Nursery had a serious accident. A note will be sent from our club wishing him well. Please consider bringing food for the staff during the holidays as a way of thanking them for all they do for our garden club.

Programs – Linda Thompson announced the three simultaneous workshops immediately after the meeting. Take this opportunity to appreciate these seven teachers who are great assets of our club. Collectively, these women have 134 years of membership, and four are past presidents. Linda thanked them all for their efforts.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Janet Formanek