

Orinda Garden Club General Meeting
Thursday, October 24, 2013
Minutes of the Meeting

At 10:30 a.m., President Janet Riley welcomed members and guests to the Orinda Library Auditorium for the general meeting and presentation.

Overview of the Community Work of the Orinda Garden Club was outlined by Janet.

The club started in 1937 with the goal to beautify, educate, and protect the environment. Over the years, it has funded projects, planted trees, and beautified the city. Currently, there are two beautification projects – the triangle and the off-ramp.

In the 1940's, cork oaks were planted around the Lake Cascade shoreline. In the 1960's, native shrubs were added. Two years ago, a huge restoration project was undertaken to include clearing the underbrush and pruning the cork oaks. Today, the shoreline looks beautiful!

A few years ago, a holiday wreath project was developed entitled "Wreaths Around Town". Each December, members decorate wreaths and hang them, with the help of the Boy Scouts and their families, in public spaces and businesses. The community response has been wonderful.

Recently, along with three other Orinda garden clubs (Montelinda, Orinda Valley and Orinda Juniors), the garden club has undertaken the planting and maintaining of ten large containers at the crossroads and also providing flowers to the library. The four clubs are in the process of re-landscaping the front of the Community Center beds.

In the 1960's, "Bouquets" project was started to provide small containers of flowers and greens to the Contra Costa County Regional Hospital in Martinez. This small contribution and gift of flowers has provided good cheer to patients for 49 years.

Other community projects include seasonal rose bush pruning at the Gardens at Heather Farm in Walnut Creek and reforestation of our National Forests.

Evie Cranston - Janet introduced Evie Cranston, a sustaining member, and presented her with a token of gratitude for her many years of service as a judge. Evie has been a floral design judge and recently was named Judge Emeritus. She has provided energy to our national club and we have benefitted from her artistry of flowers and talent.

Bouquets - Tina Locke, chair to Bouquets, announced the next meeting will be November 11 at the home of Chris Stoneberg.

Tina introduced two members of the staff at C.C. County Regional Medical Center, Rhonda Smith and Jo-Ann Lee.

Rhonda Smith thanked the garden club for the ongoing support. Since the relationship with OGC in 1964, the bedside flowers have provided more than just visual beauty. Patient-centered care focuses on the patient and family as a whole and these arrangements assist in reducing

blood pressure, anxiety and stress, and are very restorative. The staff members are also recipients of the joy and beauty. She again thanked everyone on behalf of the hospital.

Conservation – Pam Wiley announced that the first field trip will be to the Waste Water Treatment Plant in Martinez scheduled for November 20. Please sign up for this one hour tour. She also announced a new project to recycle prescription medications. The City of Orinda will receive loose pills in a plastic bag, sealed. If recycling containers, please “black out” name and any other confidential information.

Mayor of Orinda - Janet introduced Amy Worth, Mayor of Orinda. Amy is an associate member of OGC. She thanked the club for its ongoing contributions over the last 75 years. Throughout the years, with the generosity of the garden club, the city has had many garden areas beautified and maintained. She remarked the beautification and improvement is very much appreciated, from the library demonstration gardens, to the triangle, and the crossroads. On behalf of all the residents, Amy thanked the leadership of committees and the workers for their efforts.

General Meeting Agenda concluded at 10:55 a.m.

Programs – Lisa Jorgens introduced the speaker, Kevin Feinstein, who spoke about sustainability and conservation of foraging local edible plants. Kevin has written two books which were displayed and for sale.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Formanek