

**Orinda Garden Club
General Meeting
April 26, 2012**

President Carole Wolfman called the meeting to order at 10:20 a.m. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes to the March 22, 2012 General Meeting. Carole introduced two guests: Mardi Potts, President of the Moraga Garden Club and Catherine Fox, Director of Major and Planned Gifts for the Save the Bay organization. The minutes were approved.

Carole noted that Betty Argabright will be taking a nine month leave of absence.

Orinda Garden Club members were reminded to pay their annual dues to Treasurer Sandy Barnett. Carole noted the Board discussed and approved the list of contributions to the nonprofit organizations with the addition of the Friends of the Wagner Ranch Nature Area. Each organization will be receiving a \$100.00 donation. A motion was made and seconded to approve the list of contributions to the nonprofit organizations. Joyce Nelson will be reviewing the list during the coming year.

The next bouquets will be held on May 14, 2012 at the home of Lisa Stefan.

Carole then acknowledged the outstanding efforts of Diana Kennedy in organizing the very successful Walk Around Lake Cascade event held on Saturday, April 21, 2012. Diana reported there were some 125 people attending the event and she thanked the volunteers and committee members for their tremendous support of the project. Diana also acknowledged the work of Joan Andrews who initiated the Centennial Tree Project in 2009. Thus far, the fundraiser has generated more than \$21,000.00 in contributions.

Laurie Smith reported on the community affairs and beautification committee. The Orinda Garden Club efforts at the off-ramp and the cork oaks/Centennial Tree Project were recognized at the Orinda Mayor's Meeting. Garden Club members are encouraged to help with weeding and spreading mulch at both the off-ramp and triangle on Tuesday, May 1, 2012.

For the Conservation Committee, Marty DeJonghe asked members who might be interested in kayaking to San Pablo Creek, part of the San Pablo Reservoir, to observe the Creek and its environmental conditions.

There will not be a May issue of the Forget-Me-Nots newsletter, so send any information to Carole and she will email the information to Garden Club members.

Joyce reported on the informative Horticulture Committee meeting held at Diana Kennedy's home, featuring tomato grower Fred Hempel. The May Horticulture meeting will be at Jackie Voigt's home on May 15, 2012 and will feature rose specialist Carolyn Parker.

Rhonda Zaksorn noted the May General Meeting will take place on Thursday, May 31, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. at the California Shakespeare Theater. Rhonda thanked Midge Zischke for making the arrangements for the meeting. A box lunch will be served for \$20.00 and checks should be sent to Lynn Garrett. Garden Club members will be able to stroll the Theater grounds and will hear speakers from Cal Shakes.

Laurie Lowery asked Orinda Garden Club members to sign up for providing flowers to the Orinda Library each week during the months of June, July, and August. The bouquet should be dropped off on Monday at the Reference Desk and picked up on Friday.

The deadline for submitting photographs for the Lake Cascade photo contest is April 30, 2012. Photos should be given to Joan Andrews.

Ruth Fortune announced the new Orinda Garden Club members as well as members who are changing their membership status. The new members are Shari Bashin-Sullivan, Louise Diracles, Catherine Dunne, Laura Sawczuk, and Mary Ellen Schneider. Ruth also acknowledged the members of the Membership Committee. Active members Barbara Blunden and Catherine Watters have resigned. Three members have changed status from Active to Associate: Caroline Hayes, Sue Ann Manners and Mari Tischenko.

Carole then introduced a very special guest, Sylvia McLaughlin, co-founder of the nonprofit Save the Bay, the

largest organization dedicated to preserving, restoring, and celebrating the San Francisco Bay. Sylvia, Kay Kerr, and Esther Gulick established Save the Bay in 1961. With Piedmont Garden Club seconding Sylvia's nomination, Sylvia was presented the Garden Club of America's Zone XII Conservation Commendation for her many years of dedication to San Francisco Bay and other environmental causes.

Regarding merchandise sales, Linda Thompson and Sugar Filice have completed a survey of the Orinda Garden Club Board members asking for input on future merchandise items. They are re-ordering the bloom savers.

Carole Amstutz reported she and Marty attended the annual Earth Day/Wildlife Festival at the Wagner Ranch Nature Area on April 22, 2012. The event was informative and well-attended.

The next rose pruning at Heather Farms will take place on May 9, 2012.

Lisa Stefan is gathering student entries for the annual Scholarship program with the Merritt College Landscape Horticulture Department. She will be reporting on the two scholarship recipients at a future meeting.

Jean Rowe noted she is available after the meeting to assist any Orinda Garden Club members with registering onto the Garden Club of America website.

Old Business:

Margie Murphy reported on the results of the survey regarding the holiday activities. The preference for the annual holiday events among the Garden Club members were first, the wreaths project; two, the evening cocktail and dinner party; and three, the tea. It has been decided that the Orinda Garden Club will have all three events on Friday, November 30, 2012 at the Orinda Country Club. New members and their sponsors will each decorate a wreath, which will be auctioned off during the holiday festivities.

Upcoming Events:

The May Board meeting will take place on Tuesday, May 22, 2012 at the home of Tina Locke.

The next General Meeting will be held on Thursday, May 31, 2012 at the Brun's Amphitheater at the California Shakespeare Theatre.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Cinderey
Recording Secretary

- return to FMN page -