

**Orinda Garden Club
General Meeting
February 24, 2011**

Heather Dunne called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. at the Orinda Country Club. Lorene Quist called the role.

Corresponding Secretary: Lorene Quist read a letter from Heather Farms thanking the Orinda Garden Club for their care of the Austin roses and for making the Heather Farms gardens a healing and beautiful place.

Lorene also announced there have been two resignations from the Orinda Garden Club: one associate member and one active member.

President: The minutes of the January 18, 2011 meeting were approved.

Heather also noted that the January meeting in Woodside was a fantastic meeting and Dr. Mark Plotkin of the Amazon Conservation Team presented an excellent program.

Heather then discussed the Orinda Garden Club's receipt of the William Penn Mott, Jr. Environmental Award, presented on January 30th by the Orinda Association and the City of Orinda. The Association presented a gift of \$500.00 to be split between the four Orinda garden clubs. During the evening program, the Orinda Garden Club was also awarded a certificate from the California State Legislature, presented by California Assembly member Nancy Skinner; a Congratulatory Award presented by Contra Costa County Board Supervisor, Gayle Uilkema; and a proclamation from the Orinda City Council, which was read by each Council member and Orinda City Mayor, Victoria Smith.

Heather reported the Nominating Committee has recommended the slate of Carole Wolfman as President and DD Felton as Vice President for 2011-2013. By a unanimous vote, Carole and DD were approved by the members.

Mini-Luncheons: Mary Read noted that the mini-luncheons will follow the March 24th meeting. She encouraged members to volunteer to host the luncheons and sign up to attend.

Membership: Margie Murphy reminded members that March 1 is the deadline to change membership status. Changes should be sent to Corresponding Secretary Lorene Quist. Margie distributed new membership forms.

Orinda Sign: Gina Field reported that the Orinda sign is now in place at the Triangle, which is its original location dating back to 1923. Gina attended a meeting with the Orinda Historical Society, Orinda Art in Public Places, and Orinda's Department of Public Works to discuss the color of the sign. Mari Tischenko has donated her time select a new color. Mari has recommended Benjamin Moore Essex Green. The recommended color will be presented to the Orinda Design Review Board at a meeting on Tuesday, March 1.

Visions: Phoebe Kahl, Dona Snow, Cathleen Sodos and Pam Goode updated the members on plans for the 2011 Visions GCA Major Flower Show to be held in Carmel May 12-14. The Visions Committee complimented the Orinda Garden Club for selling tickets to the three lectures during the Show. A member has donated a case of wine and additional donations would be welcomed. Visions blue aprons will be available for purchasing during the Show and volunteers are encourage to buy one so they are recognized during the week. An evite to the Visions party has been mailed. Printed invitations will also be available. In the flower arranging division, there are several openings in table settings. Pam Goode noted that the Orinda Garden Club needs to sell 100 tickets for each lecture and to let her know if additional tickets are needed. Cathleen Sodos said that Piedmont and Orinda Garden Clubs are responsible for Saturday hostess duties. She distributed a volunteer sign-up sheet. Dona Snow asked members to let her know if members see any publicity for Visions.

Flower Arranging Workshops: Judy Gray and Gail Emmons reminded members there will be a flower arranging workshop on Friday, March 25th.

Founder's Fund: Joyce Nelson provided a briefing on the three finalists for the Garden Club of America Founder's Fund competition. She then distributed ballots for members to vote.

Programs: Nancy Dickmeyer noted that the March 24th meeting will feature photographer David Littschwager.

Mini-luncheons will follow the program.

Bouquets: Lexie Corbitt said March Bouquets will be March 14th at Diana Caldwell's home at 10:00.

Conservation: DD Felton presented a report on the environmental, safety and health issues of consuming water bottled in plastic bottles. Following her presentation, DD announced two upcoming field trips. On March 30th there will be a tour of an organic produce farm located in Richmond. On April 14th, Orinda Garden Club members will be able to take a tour of a recycling center located in Marin County.

Laurie Smith announced Miramonte High School will be holding an ewaste event on Thursday, March 3rd from 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Cork Oaks/Heather Farms: Joan Andrews thanked all of the members for their work pruning the roses at Heather Farms.

Horticulture: Kirsten Whitsett noted the success of the Horticulture presentation by designer Suzanne Arca. She thanked Diana Kennedy for hosting the event in her home. The next Horticulture workshop featuring landscape designer Anita McCarty will be on Tuesday, March 15th at Erin Grey's home.

Beautification/Civic Affairs: Gina Field discussed the Triangle and Orinda off-ramp maintenance. She thanked West Coast Chip company for donating the mulch for both areas. The mulch for the off-ramp area will be spread on Saturday, April 16th during Orinda In Action Day. Volunteers will be needed to help spread the mulch. Gina reminded members there will be maintenance of the planters located on Moraga Way on Tuesday, April 5th at 9:30 a.m.

Other Committee Reports: Jean Rowe announced that there is consideration for producing an on-line photo album of Orinda Garden Club members. It would be voluntary and members could either submit a photograph or Marty DeJonghe has offered to take photos at an upcoming general meeting.

Gail Emmons has secured a vendor at the Wafa Show to sell "Always Cut Under Water."

Joyce Nelson announced the result of the voting for the Founder's Fund competition. The "Beyond the Beetle" project received the highest number of votes.

Lynn Garrett reminded members to sign up in advance for the lunch following the April general meeting. The charge will be \$17.00. The Marin Garden Club will be guests at the meeting and have been invited to also stay for lunch.

Treasurer's Report: Sandy Barnett announced that the Orinda Garden Club has received three two monetary gifts: The Shenandoah Foundation has contributed \$500.00 and an anonymous donor has contributed \$1,000.00 to be used in coordination with other Orinda Garden Clubs. Additionally, Sandy noted that \$1,800.00 has been donated in honor of Lani Schulte. She suggested that a bench among our cork oaks could be a memorable setting in her memory.

Other Business: The deadline for the March Forget-Me-Nots is Tuesday, March 1st.

Judy Shallat and Joyce Nelson will be delegates to the NAL meeting in Washington D.C. February 28 - March 3. Carole Wolfman and Sandy Barnett will be delegates to the GCA Annual Meeting in Indianapolis April 29 - May 1.

The next Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 22nd at Nita Roethe's home.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Ann Cinderey
Recording Secretary

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