

**Orinda Garden Club
General Meeting
March 22, 2012**

President Carole Wolfman called the meeting to order at 10:50 a.m. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes to the February 16, 2012 General Meeting. The minutes were approved.

Treasurer Sandy Barnett reported on the proposed increase in annual dues. The current dues for active members, which have been at the same amount for five years, are \$162.00 of which \$52.00 is for the Garden Club of America (GCA), \$5.00 goes to the GCA Centennial Project, and the remaining balance, \$105.00, supports the activities of the Orinda Garden Club.

Sandy then gave an overview of the dues paid by members of other garden clubs in Zone XII. Some of these clubs charge the same dues to active, associate and sustaining members. Sandy proposed an increase of the Orinda Garden Club annual dues to \$210.00 for active members and \$140.00 for associate and sustaining members.

A motion was made and seconded to increase the annual dues of the Orinda Garden Club to \$210.00 for active members and \$140.00 for associate and sustaining members. The motion passed.

Carole read a thank you note from Kay Klunder, Director of Zone XII for the Orinda Garden Club's hospitality while she attended the February General Meeting. Carole also shared a note from Evie Cranston, acknowledging Evie's contribution of \$1,000.00 to the Centennial Cork Oaks Project in honor of Joan Andrews.

Lexie Corbitt announced the April bouquets will take place on Monday, April 9, 2012 at the home of Ruth Fortune.

Diana Kennedy reported on the upcoming Community Awareness/A Walk-Around Lake Cascade event on Saturday, April 21st at 10:00 a.m. Diana has mailed letters to the neighbors of Lake Cascade as well as Orinda City officials and community groups, describing the Lake beautification and cork oaks restoration project and asking for their financial support. She has also sent a letter to the Orinda Country Club asking for a \$5,000 donation toward the project. Orinda Garden Club members have the option of also making a pledge toward the project and joining in the walk on April 21st. The goal of the project is to raise \$13,900.00. There will be a meeting at Diana's home on April 11th to finalize the plans for the event.

Joan Andrews noted there will be a Lake Cascade photo contest open to all Orinda Garden Club members. Photos taken of the Lake will be displayed at the May General Meeting.

Laurie Smith reported on Community Affairs. The next Beautification gathering will be on Monday, April 3, 2012 at the triangle. Laurie attended the March Mayor's meeting, where the Orinda Library announced it is having a free class on using ereaders and library books on March 26, 2012. The Miramonte High School's kitchen tour was a great success.

June Cunningham noted the deadline for the April Forget-Me-Nots Newsletter is Wednesday, April 4, 2012. This will be the final issue for the year.

There will be a sign-up sheet for providing summer floral bouquets for the Orinda Library at the April General Meeting.

Lisa Jorgens and Marty DeJonghe provided an informative report on their attendance at the GCA National Affairs Legislative Meeting in Washington D.C. February 27 - March 1, 2012. Lisa and Marty spent two full days hearing excellent presentations on the environment and visiting the offices of California legislators. Lisa and Marty noted outstanding environmental projects undertaken by the Bedford, New York and Portland, Oregon Garden Clubs. In Bedford, the Garden Club developed a city-wide program, Bedford 2020.org, to create a healthier and more sustainable place to live. The Portland Oregon Garden Club was successful in a campaign to protect the beauty of the Columbia River Gorge against development and Indian casinos.

The next Horticulture Committee meeting will be on Tuesday, April 17, 2012 at the home of Diana Kennedy. Fred Himple of Baia Nicchia will be speaking on tomatoes.

Ruth Fortune announced that letters have been mailed to all of the Orinda Garden Club members in which six new

members have been proposed. The April issue of the Forget Me Nots will announce the new members.

Carole Amstutz noted the Wagner Ranch Nature Area will hold its Wildlife Festival on Sunday, April 22, 2012.

The April 26, 2012 General Meeting will feature guest speaker Dr. David Freyberg of Stanford University who will be speaking on "Water, Money, Politics and Fish." Members can bring a guest to the meeting. A very special award will be presented during the meeting. Members planning on staying for lunch can make reservations through Betty at the Orinda Country Club.

Kirsten Whitsett reported the next pruning days at Heather Farms Rose Garden will be April 25th and May 9th, 2012.

Lisa Stefan reported she has been in contact with Merritt College regarding the annual scholarship program. Two \$1,000.00 scholarships will be awarded to two students of the College's Landscape Horticulture program. Winners will be announced at the May General Meeting.

A report on the results of the Holiday Wreath Survey will be given at the April General Meeting.

Carole asked that members turn off their phones and refrain from emailing and texting during the meeting.

The next Board meeting will take place on Tuesday, April 24, 2012 at the home of Gina Fields. 9:00 a.m. coffee and 9:30 meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Cinderey
Recording Secretary

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