

**Orinda Garden Club
General Meeting
May 26, 2011**

President Heather Dunne called the meeting to order at 10:45 a.m. at the home of DD Felton. Lexie Corbitt called the role. The minutes of the April 28, 2011 meeting were approved.

Sandy Barnett provided the Treasurer's Report.

Lexie announced the leave of absence for Janet Pease until September 1, 2011.

Margie Murphy introduced new Orinda Garden Club member Susan Romak. Susan and Betty Thompson, the two new members, will be formally introduced at the September general meeting.

A report on the Visions Major Flower Show was given. Phoebe Kahl thanked everyone who had volunteered and/or participated to make the Show a success. She acknowledged Pam Goode for her exceptional ticket sales, Lisa Jorgens and Dona Snow for publicity, Cathleen Sodos for organizing all of the volunteers, and Carole and Andy Amstutz for arriving early the morning of the Show to set up the volunteers' hospitality room. Phoebe, Joyce Nelson, and Joan Andrews then announced the Orinda Garden Club members who had earned awards at the Visions Show in the Flower Arranging, Horticulture, and Photography categories.

Lisa Stefan reported that there were three raffles during the year, generating a net profit of \$3,100.00. Expenses totaled \$325.00.

Lexie acknowledged Tina Locke for arranging all of the beautiful bouquets for today's luncheon. She also thanked the members who provided flowers for the bouquets. There is plenty of space for members to sign up to participate in Bouquets next year. The end-of-the-year luncheon will take place in June.

Joan Andrews noted volunteers will be needed every two weeks this summer for the Heather Farms roses. Joan is arranging for the grasses and weeds to be removed around the cork oaks at Lake Cascade. Diana Kennedy will be assuming the responsibility for the cork oak project next year.

Gina Field remarked it was a wonderful year for the Beautification program. The highlight of the year was the Orinda Garden Club receiving the William Penn Mott Jr. Environmental Award for its contributions to beautifying the community. Joyce Nelson is retiring from the Beautification Committee; Lisa Jorgens is continuing on, and Laurie Smith is joining the Committee.

Cathleen Sodos announced the two recipients of the Orinda Garden Club student scholarships. Both students are currently enrolled in the Landscape Horticulture Program at Merritt College in Oakland. Each student was given a \$1,000 award. Cathleen provided background to the Merritt College Landscape Horticulture Program and the entries submitted by the winning students. One of the students was in attendance at the meeting and received her check from Heather.

For the Horticulture report, Joyce Nelson thanked Kirsten Whitsett for all of her help and efforts to make the Horticulture Committee a success. Dena Raffel and Nita Roethe will be joining Joyce on the Committee next year.

Regarding the Garden Club of America Founder's Fund Award, Joyce and Midge Zischke noted that last year's Orinda Garden Club's entry for the refurbishing of the California Shakespeare Theater landscaping will be revised and re-submitted for this year's Award competition. Midge also noted that volunteers are welcome Tuesday mornings to help tend the Theater landscaping.

June Cunningham noted the deadline for the September Forget-Me-Notes will be in early September.

DD Felton and Pamela Stefan focused on four environmentally friendly household cleaners for their Conservation report: salt, vinegar, baking soda and lemon juice. They mentioned that Olay brand products are the most natural and encouraged members to read the labels on cosmetic products to make certain animals are not used in testing of the products. There is a blog on zero waste ideas and tips <http://zerowastehome.blogspot.com/>.

Mari Tischenko announced that the sign-ups for the Library Flowers are complete.

A clipboard was circulated for members to update their information for the 2011-2012 Roster.

Carole Wolfman and Sandy Barnett provided reports on their attendance at the annual Garden Club of America Annual Meeting held in Indianapolis April 29 through May 1, 2011.

Pat Winther then announced the winners of the annual Orinda Garden Club Awards:

Sally Chapman	GCA Emeritus Judge Status Award
Joyce Nelson	GCA Club Horticulture Award
Dona Snow	GCA Club Appreciation Award
Carole Wolfman	GCA Club Appreciation Award
Gina Field	GCA Medal of Merit Award
Ruth Fortune	Special Orinda Garden Club Award
Joan Andrews	Toni deReynier Fauver California Natural Heritage Award
Bob Nelson	Special Orinda Garden Club Award

Heather thanked all of the Orinda Garden Club members for their support during her two years as President. Heather then turned the meeting over to incoming President Carole Wolfman. Carole thanked Lynn Garrett, Lexie and DD for hosting and organizing today's meeting. She said "Heather will be a tough act to follow" and presented Heather with several gifts in appreciation for her service.

Carole noted that a co-chair is needed for the Conservation Committee.

Carole announced that the next Board meeting will be on Tuesday, September 13th.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 noon.

Respectfully submitted,
Ann Cinderey
Recording Secretary

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