

**Orinda Garden Club
General Meeting
September 22, 2011**

President Carole Wolfman called the meeting to order at 10:40 a.m. at the Orinda Country Club. Lorene Quist called the role. The minutes of the May 26, 2011 meeting were approved.

Carole welcomed the members to a new year. She reported on her recent attendance at the Zone XII President's Council meeting in Tacoma, Washington where communication was one of the primary topics of the meeting.

Lexie Corbitt and DD Felton introduced new member Betty Thompson.

Carole honored two Orinda Garden Club members for their long commitment to the organization. Betsy Bingham has been a member since 1963 and Muffy York joined in 1952.

Treasurer Sandy Barnett reported on the budget for the 2011-2012 year. A motion was made and seconded to approve the budget. The motion passed.

Heather Dunne provided a report on the Visions Flower Show, noting that there was a \$30,000 revenue from the Show. Each of the five participating garden clubs is receiving \$2,000 and the remaining revenue will be donated to the Save the Redwoods in yearly increments of \$2,000.

A Zone XII Judging Workshop will take place September 25-27 in San Francisco and Phoebe Kahl, Heather Dunne, and Diana Kennedy will be representing the Orinda Garden Club.

Diana reported she is planning an event in the spring 2012 to bring greater awareness to and raise funds for the Cork Oak Project. She is considering a walkathon as a possible fundraiser.

Tina Locke noted the next Bouquets will be held on October 10th at the home of Jane Ryan.

Gina Field thanked all of the members who supported her and Laurie Smith's recent efforts to beautify the Triangle. She noted the Triangle looks great and appreciates everyone's support of the Beautification projects. The next Beautification day will be October 4th. The Orinda Garden Club is working jointly with the other Orinda garden clubs to develop ideas for spending the joint donor funds. One possibility is building a circular bench in front of the Orinda Theater. The garden clubs are working with the City of Orinda's new Park and Recreation Director to discuss replacing the containers at the crossroads as they are cracking. The Beautification Committee hopes to have a regularly scheduled workday the first Tuesday of every month at 9:00 a.m.

Marty DeJonghe made an informative presentation on water conservation and encouraged the members to get involved in conserving water. Water shortage is a global issue. One child dies every 17 seconds due to lack of water and only .8% of the water on the earth is available for use. More than one billion people cannot get the water they need. The United Nations estimates each person needs 13 gallons of water a day.

Marty concluded her presentation by noting that the future of the earth's water supply and availability will be determined by a number of factors, including water conservation, desalination, and changing lifestyles. Other ideas, such as moving icebergs to drought areas, may need to be explored. The United Nations is making a big push to provide water to people living in areas where water is scarce.

June Cunningham reminded members the deadline for the October Forget-Me-Nots is Wednesday, September 28.

Nita Roethe, Joyce Nelson and Dena Raffel announced the theme of this year's Horticulture program as "Genus Genius." The program will kickoff with a tour of Oakland's Casa de Sequos garden on October 11th. Box lunches will be provided.

MJ Walburg reported the programs for this year's general meetings will include speakers on a variety of topics, from flower arranging to photography to water. The February meeting will be a joint meeting with the Piedmont Garden Club and will feature Amy Stewart on "Wicked Bugs." The May meeting will be a spring picnic at the California Shakespeare Theater.

Midge Zischke reported that the Orinda Garden Club's entry into the Garden Club of America Founder's Fund Award

is completed and ready to be submitted. The entry proposed to enhance the meadow and living roof at the Cal Shakes Theater. Three finalists will be selected in October or November. The winner of the Award competition receives \$25,000 and the two finalists are each awarded \$7,500.

Pam Goode, reporting on behalf of the Ways and Means Committee, announced there will be a major fundraising event in the fall of 2012. The event will have three goals: one, to involve all members of the Garden Club; two, be as little work as possible; and three, make a significant amount of funds.

Jean Rowe, as Club Administrator, noted that the Garden Club of America has new user i.d. procedures for their website that will allow members to update their membership information. Jean is available to assist any members having difficulty accessing the new website.

Cathleen Sodos and Jane Wiser, as co-chairs of the Fall/Holiday events, announced two upcoming social activities. On October 22nd, the Orinda Garden Club will have a "CorktOberFest" at the Orinda Country Club Tennis Facility at 5:30 p.m. On December 2nd, there will be a wreath decorating workshop at the Orinda Country Club, followed by a luncheon. "Wreaths About Town" will be an opportunity for members to decorate wreaths which will be given to local merchants and civic and community organizations. The event is a partnership with the Boy Scouts.

Judy Gray and Judy Shallat have scheduled a floral arranging workshop for Thursday, November 10th at St. Stephen's Church.

Janet Pease reminded members that she is coordinating all archival materials to be stored in the new storage facility in Moraga.

Bobbie Wilson and Dona Snow are organizing Mini Bag Luncheons at members' homes following the October General Meeting.

Sheila Wendt announced raffles will take place following the October and November General Meetings.

Isa Mary Ziegler reported on the Heather Farms Rose Gardens. Deer have invaded the rose garden, and attempts to dissuade the deer through sprays is not proving effective. The City of Walnut Creek and Heather Farms staff are discussing an "Orchard Fence" which will prohibit the deer from entering the garden areas.

Jane Ryan has the new rosters available.

Kris Rawson will be coordinating rides to general meetings for anyone who needs assistance getting to the meetings.

New Business:

Carole reported that Ron Morgan will be speaking at the November General Meeting. He has kindly agreed to reduce his normal speaking fees. Carole announced that Ron Morgan will become an honorary member of the Orinda Garden Club.

Gail Emmons provided an informative presentation on WAFAs World Flower Show in Boston June 15-19, 2011. As Show Designer, Gail was responsible for creating the ambience of the Show and organizing the venue for 600 exhibitors from around the world.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Ann Cinderey
Recording Secretary

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