

**Orinda Garden Club
General Meeting
September 27, 2012**

President Carole Wolfman called the meeting to order at 10:40 a.m. Carole welcomed everyone and noted this year is the 75th anniversary of the Orinda Garden Club and the 100th anniversary of Garden Club of America.

Carole noted a correction in the minutes from the May 31, 2012 General Meeting. Laura Sawczuk was not in attendance at the meeting and Shari Bashin-Sullivan attended the meeting. Suanne Inman also made a correction, noting that both she and Marion Bottomley were in attendance at the Honolulu Flower Show. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes. The motion passed.

Carole introduced the five new Garden Club members: Shari Bashin-Sullivan, Louise Diracles, Catherine Dunne, Laura Sawczuk, and Mary Ellen Schneider. Because Laura was not in attendance at the May 31 meeting, Janet Riley, as Laura's sponsor, presented Laura's background and interests.

Carole noted the following new positions on the Board:

Dona Snow - Corresponding Secretary
Lisa Stefan - Treasurer
Laurie Lowery - Co-Recording Secretary
Pamela Stefan - Conservation and National Affairs
Betty Thompson - Raffle
Susie Romak - Library Flowers
Ann Seclow - Scholarships
Kathy French - GCA Bulletin

Dona reminded members to sign in at the front table and to pick up their copy of the 2012-2013 roster. She also asked members to deliver any rosters to Orinda Garden Club members who live in their neighborhood and are not attending today's meeting.

Carole noted that past Orinda Garden Club member Joan Gibbons wrote a letter inviting any members visiting Santa Fe, New Mexico to stop by and visit her garden.

Regarding Scholarship, Lisa Stefan reported two students enrolled in the Merritt College Landscape Design Program have received the 2011-2012 scholarship award from the Orinda Garden Club. Each student received a \$1,000 award. With a recommendation from Department Chair Chris Grampp, students Tom Evanoff and Mandy Shlugleit were selected to receive the scholarships. Both will put their award toward the cost of tuition, books and supplies.

As Treasurer, Lisa provided a summary of the account balances. She then distributed the proposed budget for the 2012-2013 year. Lisa said she will be providing Beautification, Cork Oaks, and Memorials Committees a more detailed breakdown account of their line item within the Contributions Account. Lisa asked members to use the reimbursement form available on the Garden Club website when submitting their receipts.

Lisa reported an excellent accountant has been hired for the Orinda Garden Club to assist with the accounting and tax returns.

A motion was made to approve the 2012-2013 budget. The motion was seconded and approved.

Pam Goode, Margie Murphy and Julie O'Melveny presented the Ways and Means Committee recommendation for the 2012 fundraiser "No Bake Cupcake Sale" for which each active member will be responsible to make a \$200.00 donation to the Orinda Garden Club. Pam provided background to the role of the Ways and Means Committee which is to raise funds for the Contributions Account. This Account funds important activities, including bouquets, gardens at Heather Farms, Orinda beautification, Wagner Ranch, joint club projects, memorial gifts, donations to non-profits, scholarships, and Wreaths Around Town. The goal of this fundraiser is to raise a minimum of \$15,000.00 which will help replenish the Contributions Account for approximately two years. The Contributions Account needs

about \$9,000 per year to support these various activities.

The goals of the fundraiser proposal are to 1) involve all Orinda Garden Club members; 2) require little or no work; and 3) and raise alot of money. Sustaining and Associate members are also welcome to participate. The proposal was approved by the Board at its September 11, 2012 meeting.

The Bylaws Article V, Section 4, states "Active members shall be responsible for a per capita share in any Ways and Means activity undertaken by Orinda Garden Club in an amount to be determined at a regular meeting by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the membership present."

The members voted on the proposed "No Bake Cupcake Sale" fundraiser by secret ballot. The fundraiser proposal passed by 86%. Of the 59 Orinda Garden Club members present, 51 voted 'yes.'

Tina Locke reminded members the next Bouquets will be Monday, October 8, 2012 at the home of Jean Schommer. Twelve members participated in the September Bouquets.

Lisa Jorgens reported on the Beautification projects around the City. She noted Orinda's maintenance budget has been reduced so Beautification efforts by the Orinda Garden Club are needed at the triangle, off-ramp, and crossroads containers. The four Orinda garden clubs will each be responsible for the containers for a three-month period and Orinda Garden Club's responsibilities will be in April, May and June.

Lisa thanked the members who came out over the summer months to work. Hundreds of bulbs will be planted on November 6, 2012 throughout Orinda and members are encouraged to come and help plant at the various locations.

Gina Field thanked new member Shari Bashin-Sullivan for her involvement in selecting plants for the crossroads containers. In November, the containers will be re-planted. The four Orinda garden clubs are proceeding with a new circular black iron bench at Theater Square.

Gina discussed plans for placing two memorial benches at Lake Cascade in memory of Lani Schultz and Toni Fauver. The Orinda Country Club has given their approval for the benches. Discreet plaques with Lani and Toni's names will be placed on the benches. Budget allowing, there will also be educational signage near the benches, similar to those at the Lafayette Reservoir. Gina hopes to have the benches in place in several months.

Gina thanked the Orinda Garden Club members who were involved in planning for the benches: Lisa Jorgens, Laurie Smith, Joyce Nelson, Lisa Stefan, Carole Amstutz, Midge Zischke, Jenifer Brunk, Pat Winther, Carole Wolfman, and Sandy Barnett.

Marty DeJonghe provided an overview of three Conservation events planned for 2012-2013 focusing on water and the Bay. There will be a field trip to the EBMUD water treatment plant in Orinda on Thursday, October 18, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. On January 9, 2013, Orinda Garden Club members will have the opportunity to visit the Bay Model Visitor Center in Sausalito. On March 13, 2013, there will be an informative and educational boat ride out on the Bay. Dr. Doris Sloan, emeritus professor of geology at the University of California Berkeley, will be the guest speaker on the boat, sharing her knowledge of the Bay's ecology. Marty hopes to also plan a kayaking trip in San Pablo Reservoir to observe the condition of the Orinda creeks emptying into the Reservoir.

Pamela Stefan will be keeping Orinda Garden Club members informed of Conservation efforts on a national as well as Zone XII basis as the Club's new representative for National Affairs.

The next deadline for the Forget-Me-Nots is Wednesday, October 3, 2012.

Dena Raffel thanked the members who brought their homegrown tomatoes for the tasting. She also acknowledged the excellent Horticulture event on September 25, 2012 on honey bees presented by local Orinda resident Mike Vigo.

The October Horticulture Committee meeting will be a presentation by Stefani Bittner and Leslie Bennet of Star Apple Edible Gardens on "Edibles in Your Garden." The meeting will be on October 16, 2013 at the home of Sheila Wendt at 10:00 a.m.

MJ Walburg announced the speaker for the October 25, 2012 General Meeting will be Marion Brenner, Garden and

Landscape Photographer speaking on "Gardens Through a Camera's Lens."

Linda Thompson noted that Merchandising will be introducing new items throughout the year. Kneelers, garden gloves, shrub rakes, and bulbs are some of the new garden items that will be available.

Carole Amstutz announced the 3rd annual Olive Festival will take place at the Wagner Ranch Nature Area on Sunday, October 7, 2012 from 1 - 4 p.m..

Isa Mary Ziegler reminded members there will be three days in October for tending to the roses at Heather Farms: October 3, 15, and 24th.

Jane Ryan reminded members to pick up their copy of the 2012-2013 roster and to let her know throughout the year if there any changes to personal information.

Laurie Lowery thanked the members who provided flowers over the summer to the Orinda Library.

New Business:

Nath Schmicker gave an overview of the Orinda Garden Club holiday events planned for November 30, 2012. All of the events will take place at the Orinda Country Club, starting with decorating 100 wreaths to be placed throughout Orinda the next day. In addition, new members will be decorating wreaths with their sponsors as part of a raffle. A casual tea will follow from 11:30 - 1:30 in the Fairway Lounge. Members may bring two guests to the tea and there will be a \$10.00 charge per person. Orinda Garden Club members will be able to bring favorite treats to be served at the tea. That evening, from 6:00 - 9:00 p.m., there will be an evening dinner party and members can bring one guest. Members will receive a 'save the date' email six weeks prior to the event and an email invite four weeks before. Those not using email will receive the information in the mail.

Janet Riley reported the Bylaws Committee has been meeting to review the Bylaws. The committee will meet next week to finalize any proposed changes. The Committee will present their findings at the October 9, 2012 Board meeting.

DD Felton reminded the new members that Gail Emmons will be hosting a flower arranging workshop for them on October 12, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. New members should let DD know if they will be attending the workshop.

Upcoming Meetings & Events:

Board Meeting on Tuesday, October 9, 2012 at the home of Janet Riley. Coffee at 9:00 and meeting at 9:30 a.m.

General Meeting on Thursday, October 25, 2012. Coffee at 9:30 and meeting at 10:00 a.m.

Shirley Meneice Horticultural Conference, October 22 - 24, 2012 in Austin, Texas. Joyce Nelson and Dena Raffel will be attending.

Suanne Inman noted the UC Berkeley Botanical Garden will hold a plant sale on Sunday, September 30, 2012.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Cinderey

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