



# ORINDA GARDEN CLUB

## Zone Meeting Update



Janet did an excellent job with the Zone Meeting Update (ZMU) at the meeting with Piedmont on Thursday. Did you realize how far we have come? With two short months to go, registrations are flowing in and plans are coming together. In case you missed the meeting, this ZMU highlights Janet's report and other recent news...it's getting exciting!

~ Jane Wiser, your humble correspondent

## Kindness Quote



A single act of kindness throws out roots in all directions, and the roots spring up and make new trees." – *Amelia Earhart*

## Activities Available to all OGC Members

You may participate in some meeting activities, as mentioned in previous updates. On April 14th you will be able to sign up on our website. You won't need to sign up to come to the **Spring Boutique** on Monday from 1:30 to 5:00!

*Here is a little teaser to mark your calendars:*

**Monday, May 16**

*Hart Estate Garden in Berkeley, a Smithsonian garden accepted in 2022, adjacent to the Claremont Hotel*

2:00 - 3:00 ~ 20 spots

3:00 - 4:00 ~ 20 spots

**Tuesday, May 17**

*Business Meeting and Guest Speaker*

9:00-12:00 ~ 30 Spots. (Speaker begins at 10:15)

*Garden Tours in Orinda ~ (more information about the order of gardens and educational lessons to follow in April.)*

1:30 ~ 20 spots

2:30 ~ 20 spots

3:30 ~ 20 spots

**Wednesday, May 18th**

*Filoli Tour*

Availability for the outing will be announced in April.

## Keynote Speaker and Environmental Kindness



Dr. Ari Novy is on a mission to spread Environmental Kindness and connect people with plants and each other! Ari is currently President and CEO of San Diego Botanic Garden. He first started his public garden career as an estate gardener in Villa La Pietra in Florence, then as a golf course groundskeeper in New Jersey.

After falling in love with horticulture, Ari went back to study plant biology, culminating in a PhD from Rutgers. While at Rutgers he conducted horticultural and ecological research and taught courses in invasive ecology. Ari's first garden management position was as Public Programs Manager at the US Botanic Garden in Washington DC, later serving there as Executive Director. He was a co-founder of the APGA Food and Agriculture Community and has

remained active in research.

Ari, a GCA scholarship recipient in 2007, loves communicating about the wonders of the plant world and is proud to have been a science advisor for *The Magic School Bus* series.

Join Ari for an inspirational discussion at the Business Meeting on Tuesday morning.

## Welcoming Special Guests

We are honored to host GCA PRESIDENT Debbie Oliver and FIRST VICE PRESIDENT Marilyn Donahue at our meeting. This is a nod to the present and future leadership of our organization. Please join us as we roll out the red carpet for all of our wonderful guests. This reply from Debbie following Laura and Linda's invitation says it all...

*Laura and Linda,*

*Thank you for the lovely invitation and note with details about the May 16-17 Zone XII meeting in Orinda. Environmental Kindness is the most appropriate theme and I truly look forward to being with you both, to join members of the Orinda Garden Club, and others from Zone XII to be informed and inspired...*

*Debbie Oliver,*

*President, The Garden Club of America*

## Garden Tour Feature II: Daphne and Dick Bertero's Garden



The Berteros bought 3 Oak Arbor in 1973, beginning a life-long adventure in gardening. With two small children and no prior experience, Daphne's first gardening success was a fuchsia slip given to her by her mother-in-law who instructed her to "put it in the dirt, water it, and it will grow." It did, and so did her love of gardening.

Thus starts the story of Daphne and Dick's beautiful "amoeba" garden...constantly spreading and changing with the whims of Mother Nature. Shade was lost when an old oak fell, sun exposure turned a once shady garden into an experiment in native plants. It is a laboratory for discovery. Being a "good earth caretaker," Daphne is planting natives, adjusting as the site dictates.

Daphne is honored to share her garden with you and is opening her home as well, so that you may enjoy the garden from interior views. "The Garden Club and its great members have contributed both material and ideas to my ongoing learning and sense of adventure in the plant and natural world."

As space allows, you are welcome to tour this lovely Orinda garden on May 17th and learn how to create your own special terrain from one of our past presidents and truly inspirational gardeners.

## Spring Boutique

Chris Stoneberg has curated a special shopping experience for you and our guests in the quaint shopping alley of the Meritage Room. Bring friends!

### **Spring Boutique**

**Monday, May 16th ~ 1:30 - 5:00**

Located adjacent to the registration area in the Meritage Room

Be sure to drop by our Spring Boutique for some shopping fun. Here are some of our vendors:

#### **Freida Rothman Jewelry**

Second-generation jewelry designer, Freida Rothman uses NYC as her inspiration for beautiful mixed metal bracelets, rings, earrings, and necklaces.

Everyday effortless elegance.

#### **Hofssi Chocolates**

Delicious toffee, caramels, and chocolate made with all organic, fair-trade ingredients. A wonderful gift or a treat for yourself!

#### **White Barn Home**

Modern country decor that is hard to resist. Soaps and candles to kitchen and garden accessories.

#### **Heidi Carey**

Always a favorite, Heidi will have an array of her beautiful jewelry, home textiles and divine sleepwear.

#### **Orinda Books**

Books from our beloved local bookstore. all things gardening and flowers.

## Awards Dinner Tasting

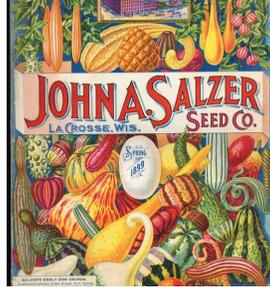


Our tasteful tasters have an important job this week, selecting wines and the meal for the Awards Dinner. Their work will make or break the meeting, no

pressure there! Cathleen Sodos, Laurie Goetzl, and Janet Riley are up to the challenge!

The dinner honors all award recipients in our zone and is one of the most special components of a zone meeting. Thank you, Laurie, Cathleen, and Janet for making it delicious! Stay tuned to hear what they selected in the next edition!

## Seed Gifts for Guests



One "suggestion" the GCA makes for these meetings is a gift of horticultural interest. OGC is lucky to have such a vibrant Hort committee to answer the call. Sue Andersen-Berger, Alyssa Harris, and Elaine Dathe have prepared some fun seeds to share, especially tomatoes, and Chris Stoneberg did the clever packaging. Here are the seeds they have selected:

- \* Danube Cherry. A unique grape tomato
- \* Alice's Dream Beefsteak. A medium-sized beefsteak tomato.
- \* Fruit Punch Cherry. A sprawling plant of pink thin-skinned fruit.
- \* Virginia Stock wildflowers. An Orinda Garden Club favorite.

## Volunteers Needed Please!

Calling all Drivers, Movers, and Multi-Taskers -

Please help us make our Zone XII Meeting a great event and sign up on our website. If you have any questions, please contact [Kris or Margene](#).

5/17 – **Balloon Drivers**. We need (1-2) people to pick up balloons at Safeway in Lafayette and take them to the 10 dinner homes.

5/17 – **Movers**. We need folding chairs delivered to the 3 garden tour homes from two people who have the chairs. This will require (2-3) people with a large car or truck to accommodate the chairs.

5/17 – **Day Drivers**. We need (3) "pilot cars" in the afternoon – they are tasked

with following the bus in case there is an emergency during the garden tours.

5/17 – **Day Drivers.** We need (5) drivers to take attendees from the hotel to the garden tours and dinner.

5/17 – **Evening Drivers.** We need (3) “pilot cars” to follow the bus in the evening – they will follow the bus from the dinner homes back to the Claremont Hotel in case of an emergency.

5/17 – **Evening Drivers.** We need (5) drivers to take attendees from the dinners back to the Claremont Hotel.

Finally, thank you all in advance for signing up and making this a great meeting. Please make sure to purchase a green apron so we are all uniformed. You can purchase one on our [OGC website store for \\$30.](#)

**Thank you!**

It may not take a village but it does take everyone in a small garden club to put on a zone meeting. Our members are coming together like a village adding different elements to make this successful. Especially during these times of uncertainty in the world, thank you for donating your time and talent. It is the purest form of kindness!



Get more info, sign up and even pay for events online, just [visit the OGC Calendar.](#)

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