



ORINDA GARDEN CLUB

Zone Meeting Update



One month away and the excitement is building! If you haven't already, *sign-up* for your volunteer shift. Please note a time change to the *sign-ups* for our garden tours, and look to *sign-up* for Filoli if there is room...so I guess *sign-up* is the theme of this alert!

~ Jane Wisner

Signing in as your humble correspondent

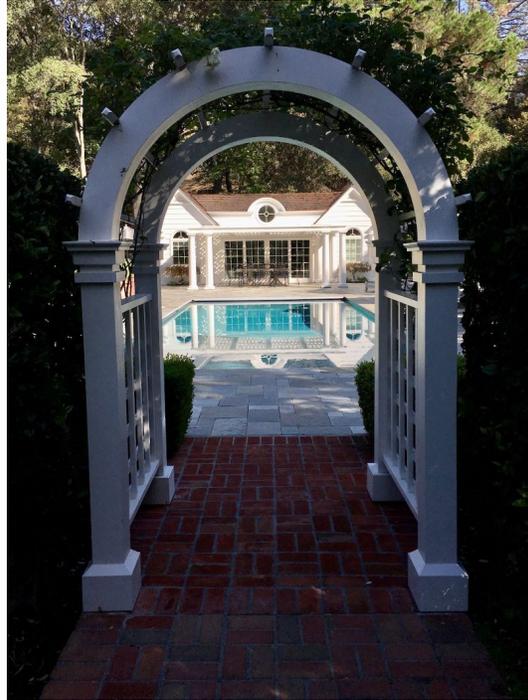
Kindness Quote



"Kindness is spreading sunshine into people's lives regardless of the weather."

~ Raktivist

Garden Tour Feature: Mary and Steven Read



Fifteen years ago, Mary and Steven Read moved to Happy Valley Road in Lafayette following 34 years in Orinda. The fourth owners of the 1949 era home, the Reads have added their own sense of style and grace to their lovely home while preserving its original structure. Adopting a green and white garden palette as a complement to the traditional feel, they have highlighted its old-world charm with meandering brick and gravel pathways which begin at the inviting white garden gate. For many, there's something about this green and white theme that creates a place of calm. "We particularly enjoy walking the garden on moonlit nights, well-lit by white flowers."

The small fountain on the south side of the garden has remained unchanged for 70 years providing a needed source of water for the resident birds. This area with its benches and peaceful sensations is a favorite retreat for the Reads and is surrounded by Little Gem Magnolias and ferns.

The property is blessed with many mature trees providing shade and structure

to the garden. Two signature Magnolia Soulangeanas welcome the morning in springtime with their beautiful flowers. Coastal Live Oaks along with Paper Bark Birch, and Crepe Myrtle 'Natchez' provide happy homes to a family of squirrels and many types of birds.

Repeated plant materials in the front and back of the property establish a harmonious flow to the landscape. With this harmony comes comfort that is inescapable. Favorites include Cornus florida dogwoods, silver wave camellias, and standard camellias (Nuccio's gem). Dwarf English boxwood and aromatic Choisya tournata throughout the garden along with Japanese flowering cherry trees and three wisterias by the pool add to the flowing palette. Other favorites you will enjoy are daphne, dahlias, roses, clematis, Viburnum marissii, variegated Aegopodium, and Lysimachia Clethroides along the borders. The back garden surrounds a lawn providing a welcome area for playful grandchildren, sports activities, and family gatherings. One can sense the happy laughter in this welcoming environment.

Yoni Mayeri, credited with the photographs above, will be in the garden to educate visitors on iPhone photography, a perfect exercise in this beautiful setting!

Activity *Sign-Ups* Start Today!

TODAY you are 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, so plan to come to the Claremont at your convenience for that and stay for the Hart Estate Garden tour. You will enjoy meeting other garden club members from across the country, so click on the event and sign up!

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](#)

2:30 ~ 20 spots

3:30 ~ 20 spots

4:30 ~ 20 spots

Wednesday, May 18th

[Filoli Tour](#)

Availability for the outing will be announced in late April.

Tasters *Sign-In* with Great Results



As promised, here's a follow-up to the Tasteful Taster's Tasting! Janet Riley, Cathleen Sodos, and Laurie Goetzl report that they were treated like royalty on their expedition last month. Chef Arwi, the Executive Chef of the Claremont, created lovely options. Learn more about his impressive career below. Even if you are not attending the event, you will enjoy knowing more about your next meal at Limewood!

Chef Arwi oversees food and beverage operations at Claremont Club & Spa including banquets, private dining, and outlets. A longtime Fairmont ambassador, he has dedicated his career to culinary excellence and is proud to source Northern California's finest seasonal ingredients for his menus. Arwi is passionate about educating young chefs and credits his innovative spirit and culinary expertise to his mentors.

Arwi began his career in 1998 at The Metropolitan Hotel Toronto and Hemispheres Restaurant. He completed his apprenticeship and journeyman papers under the tutelage of Chef Robert Sulatycky at Four Seasons Hotels & Resorts and later worked with Chef Michael Caines, Michelin Two Star, at the Royal Clarence Hotel. Arwi joined Fairmont Hotels & Resorts in 2003 at Fairmont Chateau Whistler and has held progressive positions at Fairmont Copley Plaza, Fairmont Vancouver Airport, and Fairmont San Jose before joining Claremont Club & Spa. When out of the kitchen, he enjoys exploring local farmers' markets and riding his motorcycle.

Awards Ceremony & Dinner

The Zone Awards Ceremony is highly anticipated and wonderfully celebratory, especially since it has been over 4 years since it has been held in person. Over 10 special GCA members, as well as outside individuals or organizations, will receive honors, which are highly confidential until the big event.

Awards Chairs in several Zone XII clubs have worked for months preparing the comprehensive proposals. In addition to being our Zone Meeting Chair, Janet Riley also is our Zone XII Awards Chair and has devoted hours to reviewing submittals and encouraging the process. Cathleen Sodos is planning a beautiful ceremony and Laurie Goetzl is doing the centerpieces...it will be a special evening for all.

Bay Visions Display & Sign-up for P4P!

The zone meeting is a great place to showcase club activities. One display will be Bay Visions. For new and not-so-new members, here is a brief explanation of this collaboration.

The six Northern California chapters of The Garden Club of America (GCA) form Bay Visions. They are Carmel-by-the-Sea Garden Club (GC), Hillsborough GC, Marin GC, Orinda GC, Piedmont GC, and Woodside-Atherton GC. We work together to study, share, encourage, and celebrate successful restoration efforts of the bays and estuaries of Northern California.

Since 2014, Bay Visions representatives have:

- talked to legislators in Washington, D.C., and Sacramento about funding for wetlands restoration and protection;
- participated in wetlands and dune restoration workdays;
- taken field trips around San Francisco Bay and to Monterey Bay to study wetlands projects; and
- organized educational programs for members of our six clubs, including our collaboration with Piedmont GC in its 2021 Zoom program entitled "Plants will Save the Bay."

The Garden Club of America's Partners for Plants (P4P) restoration projects support these efforts. Our P4P projects are in collaboration with Piedmont GC. Together with Save The Bay, we help to restore the shoreline near the Oakland airport and rid it of invasive plants. **You are encouraged to**

participate in P4P days on the bay to meet our PGC sisters and learn more about Bay Visions...and we all enjoy Laurie Smith's delicious cookies which keep us coming back for more!

Looking for Easels

If you have an easel that we could borrow for the garden tour, please [click here](#).

Sign up to Volunteer, 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](#).

Remember when you *Signed-up* for OGC Membership?

Signing up is saying "yes" to an activity, experience, or opportunity. When we said yes to membership we said yes to our mission statement as well. Remember this as we approach the zone meeting and know that you will learn

and appreciate what Orinda Garden Club means even more:

The purpose of Orinda Garden Club shall be: to stimulate the knowledge and love of gardening, to cooperate in the protection and conservation of our natural heritage, to encourage and assist in the beautification of the community.

Thank you for *signing up* to help with the zone meeting. You will be part of a rare experience as your club hosts an educational meeting for folks across seven western states. Actually, it's so rare because our turn doesn't come again until 2058! As always in volunteering, the more you give the more you receive in return. It's fun to meet new people with similar interests who love to garden, who want to sustain our planet for our grandchildren, and who find great joy in beautifying our surroundings. It's fun to learn and appreciate more about the Orinda Garden Club and The Garden Club of America. Don't miss out - hope you're *signing up* to help so you can be a part of this big event.

Many thanks,

Janet Riley, Chair



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

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