



ORINDA GARDEN CLUB

Picture Perfect!



Our Club has earned high praise for the Zone XII Meeting. Please enjoy this medley of photos and quotes, and relive the dream! Kudos to you!!



"Environmental Kindness -- we all leave with those two words indelibly etched in our hearts and minds. I was so fortunate to be with you and am so proud to have witnessed you, Laura, Linda, and members of the Orinda Garden Club in action. It was perfectly seamless and exuded such a kind spirit of environmental stewardship! I will always remember to walk softly and will carry

the many lessons learned in Zone XII. I am so fortunate to have been a part of your most engaging and enjoyable meeting."

All best, Debbie Oliver, GCA President

From the Beginning...

"Without a doubt, it will be extremely hard to surpass the "WOW! factor" of this one. Every garden was gorgeous; every hostess was charming; every Orinda Garden Club volunteer was gracious."

Donning green aprons and smiles, OGC members welcomed delegates for shopping, sipping, story sharing, inspirational education, and sensational ceremonies!

Vendors including Pat Rudebush entertained and tempted delegates. Eager volunteers Laurie Goetzl and Carolyn Stenovек delivered flowers, Elaine Dathe and Shelley Gilligan registered guests, and everyone enjoyed friendship in the historic Claremont Hotel.

"What a wonderful Zone meeting you and the Orinda Garden Club team hosted!! From the Claremont Hotel cocktail and dinner on Monday, to the business meeting, spectacular Orinda garden tour with wonderful and varied talks, to the intimate dinners in members' homes and the fun expedition to Filoli, there could not have been a better way to reconnect all of us after 4 years of virtual meetings."





"I'm still smiling from ear to ear after these past 4 magnificent days! Orinda GC really knows how to host a dinner, meetings, garden tours and more dinners! WOW! I am so happy I came in early to take advantage of all that the Bay Area has to offer, including new blossoming friendships!"

First stop...the Hart Estate and Garden Tour, thanks to Piedmont Garden Club.



"You and your club pulled off a warm, gracious, and informative event. No small feat coming out of a pandemic. You thought of everything. And it was so nice to meet in person so many people who for me had only previously existed on zoom!"

Cocktails & Awards Ceremony

GCA President, Debbie Oliver, received a beautiful lei from Honolulu GC delegates. Speaker Ari Novy is flanked by GCA National Affairs and Legislation Chair, Karen Gilhuly, and our Conservation Chair Kaija Gibbs. Others enjoy the celebration, entertainment, decor, delicious repast, and delightful Awards Dinner Ceremony.



"I'm still pinching myself that I was able to attend. From the moment we arrived and were able to tour the Hart Estate and Garden, to the Awards dinner with the most amazing roses I've ever seen (not to mention that chocolate bomb!), to the excellent meeting, to the perfectly curated garden tours, to the most spectacular dinner, and finally to Filoli - every detail was flawless!"





"I loved every minute and was busting my buttons for our spectacular Zone XII"

Award Winners from across Zone XII were honored. Sam Hodder of Save the Redwoods was presented with the Zone Commendation for Conservation and Lew Feldman accepted the Zone Commendation for Horticulture for the UC Botanical Garden at Berkeley. We brought the men!



Janet with ZCP Susan Uydess and ZCC Lisa Dell'Osso reign at the Zone Meeting!

A delicious meal, beautiful decorations, and lovely ladies deserved a special selfie "Cheers!" with Kaija and Caroline.

"What a remarkable zone meeting your team and entire Orinda Garden Club organized for the lucky Zone XII delegates! From the moment we checked in, to the moment we waved goodbye, OGC warmly welcomed us and presented us with one educational – and culinary! – experience after another. The speaker was terrific and thought-provoking, the Awards Dinner inspiring, the garden tours with exceptional educational elements, and the dinners were over the top! Each delegate I spoke to thought her dinner was the BEST, a true testament to the hostesses' creativity and hospitality. We all felt so indulged! And the flowers ... WOW. Whether on the dinner table or in one of the feature gardens, they were gorgeous! What really stood out to me was how OGC carried the theme "Walk Softly on the Earth" throughout by creating such a warm "vibe," cheerful smiles, offers of help, genuine welcome remarks, calm changes to schedules/guest lists, garden chaperones gently making sure we stayed on time and got to where we needed, wonderful support throughout. If OGC was feeling any stress, not a delegate knew it!

From the well-organized meeting to the engaging speakers, the beautiful gardens, delicious meals, and our meeting favors, Orinda Garden Club didn't miss a detail! Absolutely loved this whole experience! Thank you, thank you!"

Business Meeting and Education



"Thank you so much for all of the hospitality and kind hosting these last two days! It was such a pleasure for me to come to the Zone XII meeting. I so enjoyed being with you and all of the GCA crowd. You are just the best! I'm excited to see you in San Diego soon. Please don't hesitate to call on me at any time."

All the best, Ari Novy, keynote speaker

"This was my first, and hopefully not my last, zone meeting. What an inspiration to meet and learn from so many thoughtful, supportive, and engaging women while being welcomed into the magnificent homes and gardens of the Orinda Garden Club members. Our hosts couldn't have been more hospitable and helpful. Debbie's comments were, as always, on point, insightful, and inspiring. And Dr. Ari Novy provided perhaps the best testimonial for supporting the scholarship program."



Attentive volunteer Caroline LaVoie distributes delicious lunches before guests board buses to Orinda. A poster collage by Pam Wiley shows off our Plant Sale to attentive meeting attendees!

"Your committees worked flawlessly and no detail was left unnoticed."



"It was a mini-vacation for me. Every detail was perfection, from the handouts, gifts, meals, gorgeous table flower arrangements, Ari Novy, garden tours, and your husband's beautiful song. You are fortunate to have a deep bench of such talented young members. Thank you again for a very memorable two days with such enthusiastic and kind ladies."





"It was so wonderful to see such lovely gardens and to be in members' homes. Truly magical!"





"The Zone XII Meeting demonstrated the capability, caring, and creativity of your club."



Delightful Dinners

"I really wanted to reach out and thank you and your club for showing us all such a tremendous time! The garden tours with the educational touch were fabulous!! The dinner hostesses really put on a show and were so very gracious! All of your coordination and smiling faces made the entire event so enjoyable. I know you must have special ordered the weather as well since no detail was left unattended. Hope you all have kicked off your shoes and are relishing in your success! Bravo!"



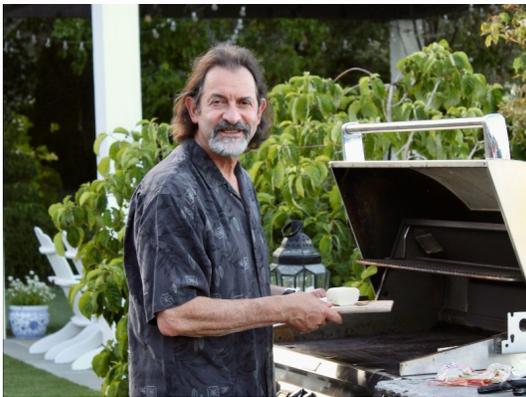




Outstanding Hostesses and their Helpers!

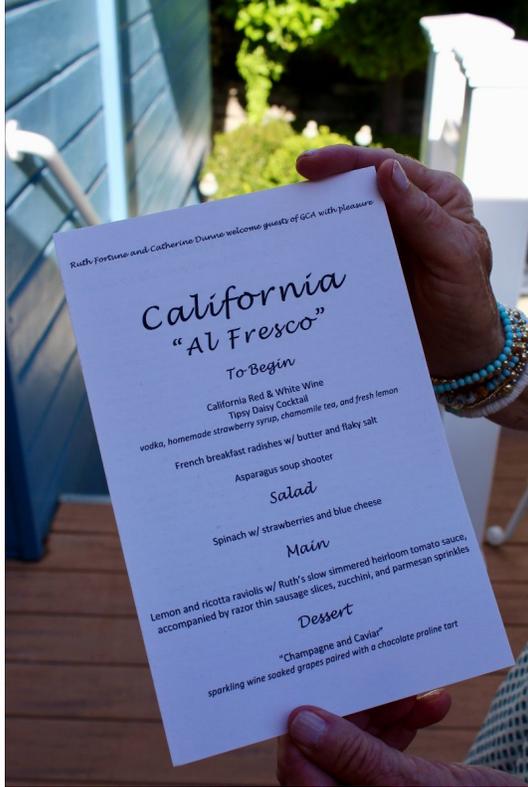


"It was such a pleasure to be here and enjoy the hospitality of all your members. A real treat."



"It was so wonderful to see such lovely gardens and to be in members' homes. Truly magical!"





"Every garden was gorgeous; every hostess was charming; every Orinda Garden Club volunteer was gracious."

Off to Fabulous Filoli





Generous Donation

"Debbie Oliver made a very generous donation to the San Diego Botanic Garden in honor of The Orinda Garden Club/Zone XII Meeting. Her message with the donation reads: Congratulations and thank you to Orinda Garden Club for such an inspirational Zone XII Meeting."

We are honored that Debbie chose San Diego Botanic Garden for this special tribute to The Orinda Garden Club/Zone XII Meeting. Susan Parker, SDBG"

Final Photos...



We opened our gates, offered a seat, educated and inspired, and gifted seeds for the future and shared gardens of the past. We wined, dined, browsed, and even drank boxed water...all while walking softly on the earth.

Our motto resonates in the thank you comments. Don't be surprised to hear "Environmental Kindness" around town, and especially in the GCA for years to come...it worked...we nailed it! Congrats!





Credits

These photos are just a sampling of the thousands taken by talented members Caroline LaVoie, Barb Boster, Janet Riley, Cathleen Sodos, and Ruth Fortune. If you have more to share please add to the website by [clicking here](#).

Finally, in honor of the 2022 Zone XII Meeting, Ben Riley composed a song and Steve Harwood created the video to highlight our theme. This includes photos of the San Diego and UC Berkeley Botanical Gardens, as well as Nath's and Daphne's garden, and Bonnie Miller's gardens. Dedicated to Janet's clear vision and steadfast leadership, this video will offer a reminder of Earth's Kindness for years to come. [Click here to enjoy!](#)

~ Your Humble Correspondent, Jane Wisser



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