

February's IGC news and events.

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THE INVERNESS GARDEN CLUB BEE

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A Note from the Leadership Circle

FEBRUARY UPDATE

Happy early spring! Now is the time of year to fully appreciate our mild winters. We have bulbs and flowers blooming while much of the rest of the country is still under ice--and will

be for another six weeks, if you can believe the Phil the Groundhog, who was rudely awakened from hibernation this morning in Pennsylvania for his forecast. We need those six more weeks of winter--let them all bring rain. In the meantime, we have our **Sharks! program with two dynamic expert speakers** to look forward to on **February 16!** Scroll for details.

With awakening from dormancy comes change, and that includes in our Leadership Circle. **Judith Moore** has resigned after serving with grace and humor for nearly two years as our administrative chair. From June 2015 to December 2017, she acted as the business manager of our club, balancing our checkbook, paying our bills and taxes, complying with state and federal regulations and supporting the Membership Chair in dues collection and record keeping. During our search for a new administration chair, Leadership Circle members **Stacy Gradman** and **Barbara Jay** are overseeing IGC Administration.

This quiet season is also a good time to quietly reflect on fellow members and **friends we have lost** recently. Two long-term IGC members passed away in 2017, and to them we say, "hail and farewell" as well as a huge thank you for their friendship and exceptional generosity.

Leah Crane of Inverness joined in 2002. Her estate contained a generous bequest to the IGC Scholarship Fund and a provision donating her home to the Inverness Foundation.

Barbara Whitt of Inverness Park, pictured at right celebrating the 50th anniversary of the IGC Scholarship Committee in 2010, joined in 1982. She served the Scholarship Committee for a full term of six years and continued for years after to write her many friends in West Marin, annually soliciting them as donors and loyal friends of IGC Scholarship.



Additionally, we salute and mark the passing of five **IGC husbands** whose gifts to our club were much appreciated, and whose genial presence warmed us in



our gatherings.

Dick Aston, pictured at our Holiday Luncheon in December, was an enthusiastic waiter at the event for many years as well as supporting Jan Aston through the years in her numerous IGC tasks.

Doug Johnson backed up wife Ann when she served as treasurer of the Scholarship committee, using his CPA skills to create financial charts that were easily presented and understood.

Jim Laws was an elegant Holiday Lunch waiter, organizing the whole clan in their list of duties.

Alan Proctor was present and active in many IGC events, including, most famously, lending his florally-enhanced pickup for the Western Weekend Parade.

Finally, **Russell Ridge** opened his garden and his vast knowledge of plants to train many IGC gardeners in pruning and other skills.

Member Events

Sharks!
**IGC Educational &
Fundraising Event**

**7 pm Friday
February 16**

Dance Palace

Point Reyes Station

\$20 Adults, \$5 Kids



What's even more exciting than bats, perhaps? **Sharks!** Join us for our now annual Creature Night to hear two expert speakers, **David McGuire**, a shark advocate, filmmaker, director and founder of Sharks Stewards and our own **Scott Anderson**, a pioneering white shark researcher for the Global Tagging of Pelagic Predators. Come for an exciting family-friendly evening of shark stories, photos and videos and stay for the delicious homemade dessert buffet. Proceeds go to the Dance Palace.

And who is providing the delicious dessert? We are! They will come for the sharks and stay for **our awesome IGC dessert smorgasbord!!** Please plan to bake your best cake, cookies, cupcakes, fruit crumble, brownies or other delicious treat. Drop it off in the DP kitchen before you settle in for the shark show. Please let Barbara Jay know what you're bringing: 663-0805 or barbjay@earthlink.net.

Inverness Garden Club Calendar-remainder of 2018*

February

16: Educational Event & Fundraiser at Dance Palace (Fri. 7 pm)

SHARKS! Speaker David McGuire, MEH; Director, Shark Stewards

March

17: Educational Event (Sat. 1-3 PM) *St. Patrick's Day Green Event at Mostly Natives. Speaker: Charlotte Torgovitsky*

April

14: Garden Tour of member's garden (Sat. 1-3 pm)

May

12: General Meeting (Sat. 1-3 PM) *Mother's Day Garden Get-Together*

June

03: Western Weekend Parade

August

11: Inverness Faire *plant sale, bake sale, rummage sale*

**This calendar is subject to change. Watch your monthly Bee for updates as we get closer to each event.*

Public Events



"Breaking Bread, Building Bonds"

**8-9 AM Wednesday
February 21
Dance Palace**

RSVP Requested

This is not a garden event, but it is a good way to build bridges between **IGC** and the many other non-profit organizations in West Marin. This complimentary breakfast sponsored by **West Marin Community Services** (WMCS) features updates on locally-based leadership, immigration and assistance programs as well as the honoring of **Wendy Friefeld**, WMCS's outgoing executive director, and the welcoming of **Heather Ivey**, the new executive director.

Please RSVP by February 16 to 415-663-8361 or info@westmarincommunityservices.org.

Eco-Friendly Garden Tour

Sponsored by the
Sonoma-Marín Saving
Water Partnership

10-4 Saturday
May 5

Free, self-guided



Here's an event worth marking the calendar in advance! The Eco-Friendly Garden Tour is a public outreach and education program that promotes **sustainable landscaping practices** by showcasing **inspiring gardens** throughout Sonoma County and North Marin.

The Tour highlights Russian River- and [Bay-friendly landscaping](#) best practices, and supports [Qualified Water Efficient Landscaper](#) (QWEL) certified professionals by featuring their personal or client gardens. [Visit this link](#) to sign-up for announcements about the tour as the date grows closer--and to nominate a local garden if you've got one in mind!

Club News

Scholarship Committee Update

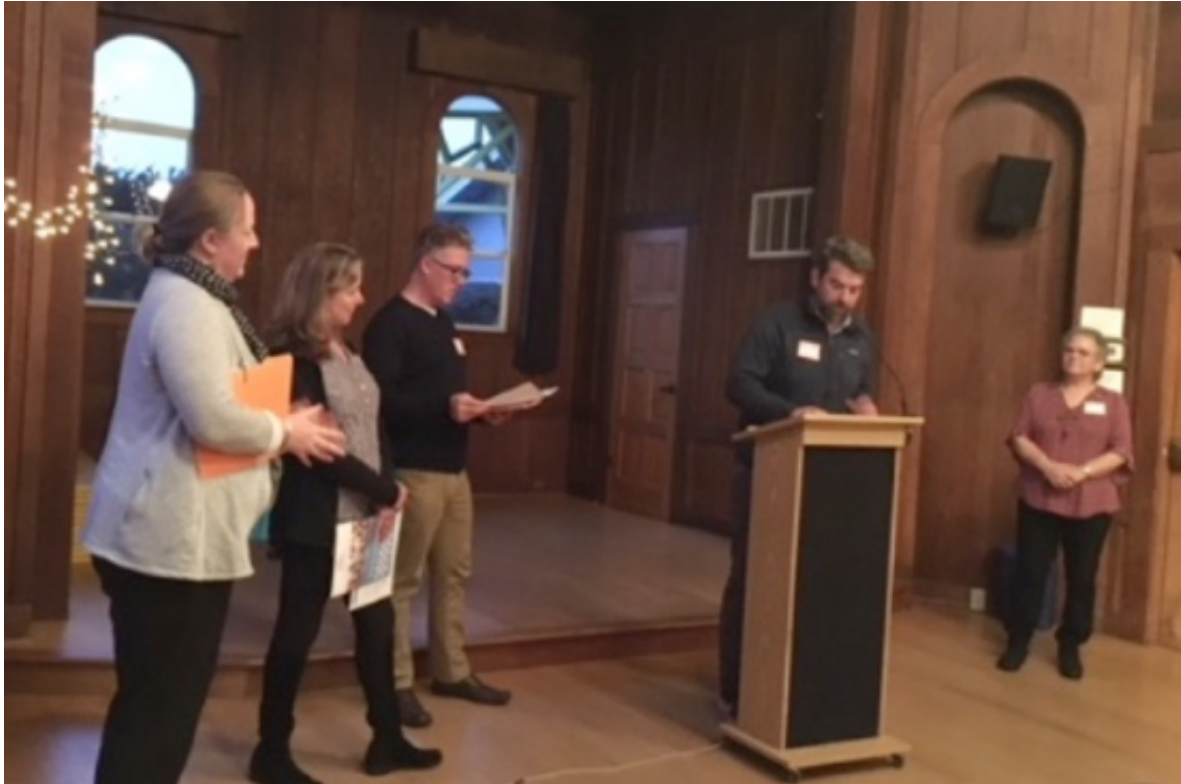
FOCUS ON EDUCATION

The Garden Club's January meeting centered on education topics and performance in West Marin. Scholarship Committee chair **Linda Lustig** drew together **Ann Mathieson of MarinPromise.org**, **Traci Lanier from 1000odegrees.org**, **Shoreline USD Superintendent Bob Raines** and **Tomales High School Principal Adam Jennings** for two hours of discussion. The gathering was a great opportunity for the four to connect with the club, which this year will spend nearly **\$500,000 on college scholarships** for West Marin students.

Mathieson outlined her organization's efforts to foster collaboration, common goals, and

accountability from pre-K to career. By essentially doing experiments with districts and organizations, Marin Promise is able to get a better handle on how to make change—improving math scores among middle-schoolers, or helping ensure third graders don't lose much of what they've learned through the summer.

Lanier emphasized not only their efforts to provide college funding to needy students, but also the mentoring so essential to getting kids not just to college, but through college. They have 1400 supported students in college now across the broader Bay area. *(Story continued after pictures)*



Superintendent Raines said the district is committed to equity throughout its operations—to ensure that all students have “an opportunity to have an opportunity.” He outlined efforts to refinance bonds and cut costs for taxpayers, but also noted changes in state policy that will reduce state funding for students going to school outside of their “home” districts (a number of Tomales students transfer into the Shoreline district). IGC members wanting to pitch in could have a big impact as a “reading buddy” for younger students.

Principal Jennings pointed out that the school has improved five to fifteen percent over the last three years in each of its target initiatives under its re-accreditation rubric. Assessments will expand from English and social studies to science and math in the coming year or so. Committee members would agree that his leadership at the high school, together with that of key staff, has been essential to the success of our efforts in the last six years.

Superintendent Raines thanked the IGC deeply for its support of his students, college-bound or not. Both he and Principal Jennings emphasized how much easier it is to encourage good work from students when there is a real path to college available to them.

As a reminder, our fundraising campaign is ongoing--click the "**Donate Now**" button at the top of this newsletter for an easy way to donate. Below are some pictures of our latest crop of scholars and their supporters from our recent Meet and Greet.





Communications Committee Update

Please send Bee feedback, club news or photos to Lisa at lptornes@gmail.com. And be sure to follow our new **Facebook page**: Click on the *Follow on Facebook* at the top of this newsletter, and then click the "Like" button underneath the picture. Questions? Ask [Lisa](#).

[Inverness Garden Club](#)

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