

Orinda Arts Council

Spotlight

February/March 2006

"I have chosen to paint: to me it has been as indispensable as food. Painting appeared to me like a window through which I would fly away to another world."
Marc Chagall (1887-1985)

ORINDA ARTS COUNCIL! What are we? Where are we going? It's a question we ask ourselves every few years. For over fifty years we have engaged in such projects as commissioning a cast bronze figure to be placed at the Orinda Library, placing artwork in the Library Gallery, raising funds at Arts in Bloom, making school grants for art programs, and awarding scholarships to high school students. And, this is the short list! BirdHaus. Arts at the Park. Orinda Idol. These are the names of new projects to stimulate interest in the arts in the community of Orinda. We all appreciate those who have the vision to see the possibilities and have the energy to carry it through. Still, a few cannot do the whole thing. As individuals the task is overwhelming but as a group we are able to accomplish so much more. Welcome aboard!

Myrna Witt, President

OAC MEETINGS: The next meeting is on **Thursday, February 9 at 9:30 a.m.** in the **Gallery Room** at the **Orinda Library**. We hope that all members can be there to hear reports on the progress of the upcoming events. The **March** meeting is in the evening and will be held on **Thursday, March 9 at 7:30 p.m.** at the Orindawoods home of **Myrna Witt, 684 Fox Run (254-8002)**.

THANK YOU: We want to thank those Arts Council members who were willing to sponsor an art or music teacher from OUSD who came to the December luncheon at the Orinda Country Club. We all had a good time getting to know some of our hard-working teachers better. Nancy Daniels gave a short presentation on what would be happening throughout the year, culminating with the Arts at the Park Festival.

ORINDA IDOL! We hope those words will bring a flutter to the heart and stimulate the competing spirit of the young of Orinda. Everything is in place to make this event go forward thanks to all of the thought and work by **Petra Michel**. There are four categories and prizes in each one: K-2, \$100; 3-5, \$200; 6-

8, \$300; 9-12, \$500. In March and April teachers will conduct the first round and listen to the students to decide who will be the finalists. Then on September 10 the finalists compete! Three judges and the audience will decide on the winners.. We hope that you encourage students to participate. You just might be inspiring an Orinda Idol to continue on to become the American Idol!

BIRDHAUS: **Ann Mordine** is leading this project and would like to have additional committee members. There are many areas in which to participate: artist recruitment, artist logistics management, program promotion, auction, birdhouse installation. You may contact Ann through her email, **mordinegrewal@sbcglobal.net**.

BirdHaus, sponsored by the Orinda Arts Council, is a public art installation of artistic birdhouses paying homage to Orinda's natural setting and bird watching locale; these artistic habitats are being designed by Bay Area artists, architects, designers, builders, and community groups. They will be prominently displayed throughout Orinda from July to September 2006. The birdhouses built for BirdHaus will be offered for auction at a benefit party on September 9, 2006. Auction proceeds and a portion of the BirdHaus auction party ticket sales will benefit the Orinda Arts Council's fund for community and school-based arts education programs as well as Mt. Diablo Habitat for Humanity initiatives.

HIGH SCHOOL ARTS COMPETITION: The OAC Visual Arts Competition has been highly successful since we transferred the judging to the Library Gallery; the student artwork is displayed in the gallery so that the whole community may enjoy it. The students with the encouragement of their art teachers have responded in a very positive way. The judging and set up will be March 19 through March 23 with the reception being held on **Thursday, March 30**. The committee will need more volunteers to help with the installation, art check-in and check-out. **Gloria Forrest** is the volunteer coordinator: her phone number is 254-2593 and email, **lforrestg@comcast.net**.

LIBRARY EXHIBITIONS: January 14 to February 13, Jim Jordan, Orinda artist, exhibits oils, acrylics, and sculptures.

February 15 to March 19, East Bay Fine Artists; reception, February 17.

March 24 to April 14, OAC Visual Arts Competition Exhibit.

April 15 to May 14, Watercolor California.

Many thanks go to **Jean Kalbach** for doing all of the scheduling and making sure that the works are installed in the gallery. If you are interested in helping Jean with some of this work, her number is, **283-4227**, or email, **jkalbach007@comcast.net**.

A BIG THANK YOU goes to **Joanne Frudden** for decorating the Arts Council tree for the Orinda Woman's Club Festival of Trees fundraiser. We are very glad that we could support the OWC in this way. In December we received \$400 from their Community Service Committee and appreciate the contribution very much.