

Orinda Arts Council
Spotlight

November/December 2005

*"How sweet the moonlight sleeps upon this bank!
Here will we sit and let the sounds of music
Creep in our ears; soft stillness and the night
Become the touches of sweet harmony."
Merchant of Venice by Wm. Shakespeare (1564-1616)*

OASIS! This word brings to mind an image of water in the desert. It is often a metaphor for quenching the thirst of the spirit and was certainly an appropriate acronym for a group of parents who wanted to make sure that there was a place for music and art in the schools. The Schools Committee does not have the same ring but it still pursues the same goals. The October evening meeting was held at the home of Petra Michel and the schools liaisons gave summaries of what is happening in the OUSD schools. It was an amazing report of what can happen when people care enough to devote time and energy to an ideal. The next joint meeting will be at Nancy Daniels' home (536 Tahos Road) on January 12, 2006 at 7:30 p.m. We hope to see everyone there!

There are exciting plans in the works for next year. Nancy and Petra have been very busy speaking to one group after another to promote the *BirdHaus* Project. The plan is to make Orinda the star in this project; it means that there will be birdhouses throughout the town during the summer, on the order of similar themed artworks in other places. These artistic birdhouses will then be auctioned at the fundraiser next fall. The Arts in the Park is an important element in these plans with art and music as the centerpiece.

The Orinda Arts Council needs all of its members to come to the meetings and to become part of the plans. It is time for us to think about becoming the oasis of the community.

Myrna Witt, President

URBAN FOUNDATION GRANT

The Orinda Arts Council is honored to be the beneficiary of a semi-annual grant by the Ted Urban Foundation. Ted Urban is a local architect, avid art collector and art lover. His vision is to create spaces for public art in Orinda. His foundation's grants are made in an effort to partner with the OAC in working with the city and to defray the costs of transporting and installing major works of outdoor sculptures for temporary installations.

For 2006, we plan to apply the Urban Foundation funds to our *BirdHaus* project. During the summer when the artistic and architectural creations are complete, we will display them throughout the community before they are auctioned on September 9. Our intention is to establish a precedent and appreciation for public art in Orinda thus aligning our goals with Ted Urban's vision. For more information or to volunteer in this effort, please contact Ann Mordine at 254-4489.

SCHOOLS COMMITTEE

Name	School Liaison	Address	Phone	Email
Anderson, Heather	Glorietta	15 Southwood Ct.	254-8444	anderhus@pacbell.net
Barretta, Gina	Wagner Ranch	56 La Cuesta Rd	258-6639	barrfetta1@comcast.net
Bianchi, Diane		71 Muth Drive	254-3418	bianchiori@comcast.net
Butler, Sarah		233 Overhill Rd.	258-9095	sarahbutler@hotmail.com
Daniels, Nancy		536 Tahos Rd.	253-1623	ndaniels@stanfordalumni.org
Felton, Robin	Sleepy Hollow	42 Tarry Lane	253-3532	RDF14@comcast.net
Georges, Arabella	Glorietta-main	848 Acalanes Rd	962-9067	arabella.georges@comcast.net
Hinman, Suzanne	Del Rey	25 Fern Way	253-7922	suzanne.hinman@comcast.net
Mautner, Susan		11 Ardilla Rd.	254-7551	s.mautner@comcast.net
Michel, Petra	Wagner Ranch	160 Camino Don Miguel	258-1993	petra@bluestar.com
Mordine, Ann	OIS	59 El Gavilan	254-4489	mordinegrewal@sbcglobal.net
Paterson, Hillery		1090 Larch Ave. Moraga 94556	376-2971	Patsfam4@aol.com
Smith, Frances		37 Las Cascadas	253-8692	francesjoslin@sbcglobal.net
Vann, Robin		258 Glorietta Bd	253-9088	robinvann@mtdpc.org

The minutes of the October meeting have the reports of the school liaisons. Here is an abbreviated version of the activities in the various schools.

Glorietta Liaison, Arabella Georges reported that art is now offered weekly to students who were formerly scheduled only three times a month. The art teacher's paid time has been increased by two hours a week.

DelRey Liaison, Suzanne Hinman said that all classes, with the exception of kindergarten, have art with the art teacher once a week. Art history is incorporated into the lessons.

Wagner Ranch Liaison Petra Michel reported that the Parents Club has purchased a new kiln. Art teacher, Linda Kam hung student artwork in the Orinda Library Children's area. She also sent emails to the parents of children whose art is being displayed in the MOSAIC frames. Auditions will be held in November for the Wagner Ranch play.

Orinda Intermediate School Liaison Ann Mordine had much to report since the school covers three grades. Susan Weiss, the art teacher, is working with District Art Coordinator, Hillery Paterson, to expand the arts enrichment in the Core academic classes in all grades. OIS Parents Club is contributing to the cost, by supplementing OAC funding. Among the lessons to be offered are 6th grade Asian brush painting, a 7th grade Renaissance fresco painting project, African-American storytelling and spirituals, 8th grade American landscape painting, and civil war figure sketching.

Momentum for this movement has been built from the OAC years' old involvement at OIS, the OASIS Committee's encouragement of OUSD to apply for state grants, and the current OAC Schools Committee's leadership in working with Parents Club and Principal Michael Randall at OIS.

HOLIDAY LUNCHEON/MEETING

Thursday, December 1, 2005
11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Orinda Country Club
315 Camino Sobrante, Orinda

Seared Spinach Salad with Roasted Pumpkin, Applewood Bacon,
Pickled Red Onion and Extra Virgin Olive Oil;
choice of Salmon or Chicken Breast.
Bread, Butter, Coffee, and Tea
Red or White Wine
Apple Galette with Vanilla Ice Cream
\$26

We will invite the art and music teachers of OUSD to be our guests for this event. If you would like to "adopt" a teacher or even "half" of one, just make an addition to your check.

Please, send a check and your choice of salmon, chicken breast, or vegetarian by November 23rd to Myrna Witt at 684 Fox Run, Orinda 94563. If you have any questions, please call Myrna at 254-8002.

OCTOBER MINUTES

If you were not able to attend the October meeting, Susan Mautner sent the minutes to the OAC membership via email. It is important to read the minutes because there was a very full agenda and the November meeting will continue those discussions. Of particular interest are the plans for the Arts in the Park festival on September 10th and the evening gala the night before.

HOLIDAYS

Family. Vacation. Parties. Gifts. Cards. Friends. It is a busy time of the year with hardly a moment to rest. We wish everyone the most joyful holidays with moments of small pleasures as well as big celebrations. May you and yours be filled with good spirits and cheer all around.