

The Orinda Arts Council

Spotlight

September 2004

*"Now art should never try to be popular. The public should try to make itself artistic."
Oscar Wilde (1854-1900)*

Dear Members, we have been delighted with the responses we have received concerning our August letter, new mission statement and overall strategic plan. It has been a summer filled with much cogitating and planning. Your responses to our letter have inspired us to carry our organization forward to new heights.

Our first general meeting will be on **September 9th** in the **Garden Room** in the **Orinda Library** building (note change of venue). We will gather at **9 am** for refreshments and the meeting will begin at **9:30**. In order to respect our members' busy schedules and limit the length of our general meetings, much of our business this year will be handled in smaller groups and by email. However it is important for us to meet and share our business. We hope you will try to make as many meetings as possible.

Our agenda will include presentation of the Strategic Plan already mailed to members, discussion of our goals for this year and reports on activities already underway, e.g. the Copper Tooling Project at OIS and the Children's Hospital visits.

It is a pleasure to welcome our new treasurer **Sandra Mejia** who will bring her extensive expertise in financial matters to this office, having worked in this area for a number of years. Sandra's son Daniel attends Miramonte and her daughter Natalia is at UC Berkeley. We are fortunate to have her join the Arts Council's Executive Board.

We have many competent, talented members leading our OAC endeavors. If you are not already on board, we hope you will consider joining committees to:

- ❖ Assist with communications efforts – such as web site, publicity, and news,
- ❖ Actively support art projects at OIS,
- ❖ Bring joy to young patients at Oakland Children's Hospital,
- ❖ Conduct our exciting regional high school arts and music competitions and exhibit
- ❖ Plan and take a part in the success of our spring fundraiser "Arts in Bloom".

There are many ways to get involved and we welcome your participation whether large or small.

Our community is rich in cultural opportunities, and we expect to do a number of outings to theatres and concerts on this side of the Caldecott Tunnel this year. We begin with an evening at Town Hall Theatre to see ***The Dinner Party*** by **Neil Simon** on **Friday, September 17th**. There will be sign-ups on September 9th. Email Sue at Farmerfam@aol.com or call **Mary Jane Duthie** at 254-5953 for more information.

We have raised the bar again for the Orinda Arts Council, and we look forward to your helping us reach new heights by joining the team!

Your co-presidents, Sue and Susan

Dates to Remember and Reminders

- ❖ Meetings are on second Thursdays of the month. Most meetings will be in the **Garden Room** of the **Orinda Library** at **9:30 am** while two meetings will be at 7:30 pm with the location to be announced. Meeting dates and times are as follows: September 9, 9:30 am; October 14, 9:30 am; November 11, 7:30 pm; January 13, 9:30 am; February 10, 7:30 pm; March 10, 9:30 am; April 14, 9:30 am; May 12, 9:30 am. See you at the first meeting on **September 9 at 9:30 am!**
- ❖ **Oakland Children's Hospital** outing days will be on Tuesdays and Fridays this year. **Friday dates:** September 10, October 1, October 22, November 5, December 3. **Tuesday dates:** September 21, October 12, November 16, December 14. If you are interested in going along to help with a truly worthwhile project, call **Shirley Towbis** at **254-6607** and meet in **Rite-Aide** parking lot before **10 am**.
- ❖ **September 17** – Town Hall Theatre in Lafayette to see Neil Simon's ***The Dinner Party***; Call **Mary Jane Duthie** at **254-5953** for more information.
- ❖ This is a friendly reminder to send in your dues (\$35) if you have not done so. Also, if you would like to receive the newsletter via the website or sent directly to you in an email, let me know by contacting me at **254-8002** or **keyofm@aol.com**. **Myrna Witt, editor**.

Orinda Arts Council

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Susan Mautner & Sue Farmer, Co-Presidents

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