

Orinda Arts Council

Spotlight

September/October 2005

*“Visi d’arte” (I live for my art.)
From “Tosca” by Giacomo Puccini*

Welcome back, OAC members! It’s September and again time to hit the ground running. This will indeed be a year of challenges. Some of them ongoing and some that will be solved immediately.

CHALLENGE NUMBER ONE is to recruit new members who can help carry out the jobs of the coming year. “Many hands make light work” is a truism that applies to our situation. **CHALLENGE NUMBER TWO** is to plan a grand gala for September 2006. This is a major event that will raise funds which determines how much can be spent for our community, our schools, and our outreach programs. **CHALLENGE NUMBER THREE** is related to the second one. It is to plan an all-day, outside Art Festival that will incorporate art and music in September 2006. THIS IS the short list. You, the membership, may have your own items to add. We, the board, welcome all ideas. We can relate our tasks to the iceberg where ten percent is seen and obvious. But it is the ninety percent below the surface that holds the challenges. I am confident that we are up to those challenges.

Myrna Witt, President

Reaching Out to Children’s Hospital

The Orinda Arts Council has been very fortunate with a membership of caring, talented people. For five years our organization has sent teams of volunteers to the Oakland Children’s Hospital with seasonal art projects. It has been a worthwhile program for everyone, volunteers as well as the young patients at the hospital. The program began with Sue Farmer taking her guitar and encouraging the children to sing along. Cherry Benzie was such a hit with her drawing and caricatures that it was apparent there was a huge interest in art. Every month Cherry brought a new theme to be rendered into something special to set by a bed or to give to a brother, mother, or friend. Shirley Towbis took over as leader and knew how to use “throw-away” materials better than anyone. Some children are not able to come to the schoolroom because of different circumstances, such as being treated for cancer; that’s when our volunteers go to them with a project that can be made in their rooms. Art is a window that lets them look into another world for a little while. We are looking for someone who will take over this project and act as the organizer and team leader. If you are interested, please, **call Myrna Witt at 254-8002.**

OAC Board

President – Myrna Witt, 254-8002

Vice-President – Petra Michel

Treasurer – Sandra Mejia

Recording Secretary – Susan Mautner

Corresponding Secretary – Mary Jane Duthie

Past President – Sue Farmer

Chair for the OAC Schools Committee – Petra Michel

September Meeting of OAC

The first meeting of the Orinda Arts Council is on **Thursday, September, 8, 9:30-11:30 am**, in the **Gallery Room** of the **Orinda Library**. Please, take note that this is a different room from last year's Garden Room, which has an annoying echo for a group of our size.

The items on the agenda will include:

1. Approval of a budget.
2. Update on the MOSAIC project.
3. Report from the Schools Committee.
4. Membership and how to attract new members.
5. Fundraiser that will be held in September 2006.
6. Art Festival for September 2006.
7. Establishment of committees.

September is the most important month for setting the agenda for the whole year. We have much to accomplish and every member is needed to carry it out. I look forward to serving as your president this year and continuing our mission supporting the arts in our schools, community, and its surrounding areas. Remember that we make small steps alone but giant steps when we walk together. I hope to see you this Thursday so that we can continue moving forward and meeting new challenges.

Myrna Witt, President

New Schedule of Meetings

Here is the meeting schedule for the upcoming year. These are changes that were decided by the membership last spring. The monthly meeting times will alternate between morning and evening to accommodate employed members and parents with small children. Every other month, the Schools' Committee will have its meeting together with the full OAC. This is to facilitate a better understanding and cooperation within the organization. Petra Michel, as Chair of the Schools Committee, will be charge of those meetings and Myrna Witt, as President, will chair the combined meetings.

OAC Schools Committee Meetings	OAC Meetings	Location
Fri., Sept. 2, 12-1:30 pm	Thurs., Sept. 8, 9:30-11:30 am	Library: Gallery Room
Joint meeting: Thurs., Oct. 13, 7-8:30 pm at 162 Camino Don Miguel, Orinda		
Fri, Nov, 11, 12- 1:30 pm	Thurs., Nov. 10 9:30-11:30 am	Library: Gallery Room
Luncheon meeting: Thurs., Dec. 1, 11:30 am at Orinda Country Club		
Joint meeting: Thurs., Jan. 12, 7-8:30 pm at 536 Tahos Road		
Fri., Feb. 10, 12-1:30 pm	Thurs., Feb. 9, 9:30-11:30 am	Library: Gallery Room

Joint meeting: Thurs., March 9, 7-8:30 pm at 684 Fox Run

Fri., April 14,
12-1:30 pm

Thurs., April 13,
9:30-11:30 am

Library:
Gallery Room

Joint meeting: Thurs., May 11, 7-8:30 pm TBD

June: End of Year Luncheon, TBA

Orinda Library Art Gallery

The Art Gallery had the wonderful **Joe Cleary** exhibit in August. It was a display of an amazing artist who has worked in many different media. There were cast bronze sculptures, paintings, portraits of local people, and magazine illustrations. Also included was a seven-foot version of the "Mother River" statue commissioned by the Port of New Orleans, which has a new significance for us all.

For **September** there is a display produced by the **Orinda Film Festival**. There were interesting vintage movie posters in the display cases last year. There is a reception on **Friday, September 9, 6-7:30 pm** in the Gallery where there will be the **Blue Butterfly** artwork that is going to be auctioned to benefit the Oakland Children's Hospital Cancer Ward.

In **October** there will be a Multimedia Fall Show by the **Oakland Art Association**; Chaucer Imagery and Illustrated Manuscripts by **Anne Prescott**. There is a reception on **Friday, October 14, 5:30-7:30 pm** in the Gallery.

Jean Kalbach, Art Gallery Chair

Orinda Film Festival 2005

Randy Holleschau and his committee have a great film festival planned for September 22-25. There is a special opening night benefit for the Children's Hospital and Cancer Center of Oakland on **September 22, 7-11 pm** in the Orinda Theater. **William Hurt** will be this year's celebrity; he appears in **The Blue Butterfly**, which is based on a true story. Advance tickets for any of the screenings may be purchased in person at the Festival office in **Orinda Theatre Square, Suite 114** (next to Serika), by phone at **(925) 258-0758**, or online at **www.orindafilmfestival.org**. For a complete film schedule, you may go online.

DATES TO REMEMBER

- ❖ September 8 – OAC meeting in Gallery Room in Library, 9:30-11:30 am. Remember to pick up your own coffee from Café Teatro.
- ❖ September 9 – Reception for Orinda Film Festival display in Library Art Gallery, 6-7:30 pm.
- ❖ September 22-25 – Orinda Film Festival
- ❖ October 13 – Joint meeting of OAC and OAC Schools Committee, 7-8:30 pm at the home of Petra Michel, 162 Camino Don Miguel.

DUES ARE DUE NOW. REGULAR MEMBERSHIP, \$35.

Send to: ORINDA ARTS COUNCIL, P.O. Box 121, Orinda 94563