

Spring Plant and Used Book Sale Friends and families work together for their cause

By Lee Borrowman

On Saturday May 5, and Sunday May 6, from 9am -3pm, at 73 Coral Drive in Orinda, the Bressette/Walker family will host a Spring Plant and Used Book Sale to benefit the Bret C. Harte Directing Internship at the Berkeley Repertory Theater. They will offer hundreds of plants and books for sale just in time for spring planting and Mother's Day, including gift plants, pot gardens, succulents, bonsai plants, annuals, perennials, landscape plants, heirloom tomatoes and many other herbs and vegetables to fill your summer garden. See it. Browse the vast collection of books and find something to relax with once you are done with your planting!

Bret C. Harte was the only child of Dennis and Juanita Harte of Moraga, friends of the Bressette family. He was a 1998 graduate of Miramonte High School in Orinda, California. He went on to graduate from Bowdoin College in Maine in 2002. He returned to the San Francisco Bay Area to pursue his passion for directing theater. By 2005 he had worked in several capacities with the California Shakespeare Theater in Orinda, the Calvary Presbyterian Theater Group and Actors Rhapsody in San Francisco, the Dean Leshner Center for the Arts in Walnut Creek, the San Leandro Players, and Berkeley Repertory Theatre. In March of 2005, Harte was killed in an auto accident when he was run off the road by an unknown driver on Hwy. 680 in Concord.

The Internship fund was started by family friends following Harte's death. Lee Bressette writes, "To be perfectly honest, when this internship was created we hadn't really thought about how to fund it.

None of us had ever done anything like this before, but it is amazing how motivated one can be when following one's heart. Gardening has always been my passion, so several years ago, when I read about a 'recycle' garden in Oregon that raised funds for a spaying clinic by selling donated plants, I got very excited about the idea! I just knew that there must be many sources for plants that needed a new lease on life. Many of my friends were gardeners with perennials that needed dividing annually. I knew that landscapers always have

'left over' plants. Growers grow way too many plants each season, and nurseries always need to rotate their stock. I played with the idea of doing something similar here in the Bay Area, but I never got farther than thinking and talking about it. Then in 2006 after we had started Bret's fund, and we were told that we had to raise \$100,000 to create an endowment, I had the motivation to give it all a try."

For more information on the Bret C. Harte Internship and its other fundraising events visit www.bretchartefund.org



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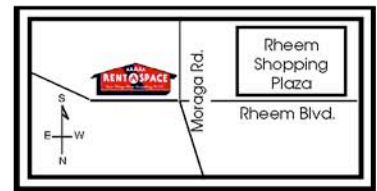


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