

# Successful Luau in Moraga Island

By Sophie Braccini



Hawaiian dancers and musicians perform on-stage

Photo by Sophie Braccini

On the evening of Saturday the 25th, Moragans coming out of Safeway noticed unusual activity on the field of the old Moraga Ranch, usually so peaceful. A large crowd of colorful people of all ages was gathering. The Luau of the Chamber of Commerce of Moraga was starting and as the event sold out, twenty of those who didn't buy advance tickets were turned away.

Guests were immediately transported to a Hawaiian luau; charming Hawaiian girls were adorning them with flower leis, an Hawaiian gifts store was setup. Teen volunteers from Scout Troop 212 and Campolindo High School were prepared to serve the hungry crowd.

As people settled in, Jenny Boyd, President of the Chamber of Commerce of Moraga, started the formalities by welcoming everyone and thanking volunteers and sponsors for their support. Ken Tom, the Vice-President of the Chamber, then took the stage as master of ceremony and manager of the Luau. In previous years, the Chamber organized a Stampede that usually attracted about 160 people. So when Tom set the bar at 450 attendees for the Luau, many thought it a very ambitious

target indeed. Tom thanked everyone who showed up to make the evening a rousing success and presented a description of the night's entertainment and the traditional food offerings.

Beautiful dancers performed in Hawaiian costumes, including little girls (Keiki) who were as graceful as their mothers. A traditional fire dance garnered much applause. The crowd was treated to more fun when men from the audience were invited to perform on stage and learned to execute interesting hip rolling movements.

The raffle was a highly anticipated part of the evening. The grand prize was a 5-day trip for 2 to the famous Waikiki Beach Marriott. The winner was Teresa, daughter of the owner of the Reflexion Skin Care and Hair Salon in the Rheem Shopping Center. The mother of 2 young children was thrilled and plans to use the prize sometime during the winter.

The next day, Steve Angelides, the Chamber's treasurer, tallied the results of the Luau. He is pleased to report that the evening was a success and that the Chamber will be able to further support projects such as the Merchants Fair and the Shop Moraga First program.

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We brought my friend from Tokyo here. He was very excited. If he were here today he would say "Domo Arigato Gozaimachita!" *Douglas Witnebel*

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Dine In, Take Out, and Catering	Mon.-Sat., 11am-8pm 74 Moraga Way, Orinda (925) 258-9049	Kids Menu
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**What:** An Afternoon Tea  
**When:** Saturday, September 29, 12:00 - 2:30 pm  
**Where:** Orinda Masonic Lodge, 9 Altarinda Road, Orinda  
**Who:** Hosted by Diablo Star, Order of the Eastern Star

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Ladies of all ages, (12 and over) are most welcome. Our Afternoon Tea will be "steeped" in fun. There will be culinary delights, desserts and teas to savor. There will be a live and silent auction, as well as lovely custom jewelry and fashion accessories available. What a great opportunity to shop early for the Holidays!

Eastern Star is a charitable non-profit organization and member of the Masonic Family. We volunteer many hours for community services and fund raising. This enables us to complete our charitable work. One of our many projects is to gather and hand craft infant wear. Last year we delivered over 90 beautiful layettes

**It's Tea Time!**



to the CC County Regional Hospital for distribution to newborns and mothers who are in need.

We appreciate your support for this endeavor and look forward to meeting you. Tea dress is encouraged. Tickets are \$23 per person. You may call 925-285-7242 or 510-582-9074 for information or to register by phone, using a Visa or Mastercard. Mail-in registration by check is also available.

Seating is by reservation only, due by September 25