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An Artist Looks At Mt. Diablo

By Cathy Tyson



Susan Reynolds

Fourth generation local photographer Susan Reynolds has an exhibit at the Lindsay Wildlife Museum through February 28th. The show, "Mt. Diablo: A Personal View," is her fourth solo exhibit and her most personal to date. As part of the exhibit, a "Conversation with Sue Reynolds" slide lecture and artist's tour is scheduled for October 27th from 4:00 - 5:30. This event and a November 23rd book signing are free with museum admission.

It all started in the basement of her aunt and uncle's home in Orinda many years ago. Then a student at Acalanes High School, Reynolds, "fell in love with the magic of the darkroom." Later working at the Oakland Museum she was exposed to a number of famous women photographers.

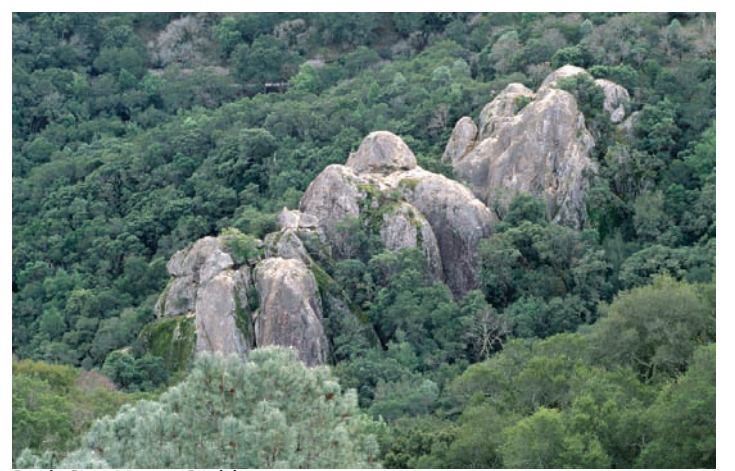
"The excitement and magic of having a connection

with my subject is really what it's all about. That relationship is almost a meditation." There is, indeed a certain stillness in her work. "I don't rush into a landscape. I found that because of the work I had been doing (running her own public relations firm) was very fast paced, I needed an antidote for all the traveling and warp speed. Nature is a place I've always gone to, because it's very relaxing and it slowed me down."

The current exhibit at the Wildlife Museum is all about Mt. Diablo. Having grown up in the area and living for last 25 years in its shadow in Walnut Creek, Mt. Diablo holds a special place for Reynolds. Her great-grandfather was one of the surveyors in the 1850's that established The Mt. Diablo Baseline and Meridian, which helped distinguish public and private lands as part of the settlement of the Mexican War of 1846 - 1848. It is still used today.

"My grandmother had a sheep ranch in the 1920's on the corner of what is now North Main and Treat Boulevard. My dad used to ride horses through the countryside, and considered Mt. Diablo his backyard." She continues, "as I get older a feel a greater sense of connection with this very special place."

To see more of her work, go to www.susanreynoldsphotography.com.



Rock City, Mount Diablo

Trick or Treat on School Street

By Nicolle



The ice cream man on School Street in Lafayette Photo Andy Scheck

The ice cream man truck industry has changed quite a bit since my day. When we heard the tinny rendition of...what was that song? We ran into the house, begged for a few quarters and the chase was on for blocks. I balanced one sister on the back of my banana seat and another on the handlebars...look Ma no helmets! I braved busy streets and honking horns. I fought for my cream. The ice cream man? Well his job was rough too. He would drive fast then slow masterfully playing his funky tunes. He worked 'til dusk- he worked hard for the money.

My son came home Tuesday with an ice cream stick and fizzes and cigarette gum, you know, the kind you blow into and 'smoke' comes out. "Where did that come from?" I asked. "The ice cream man" he responded nonchalantly. I swallowed down the motherly urge to bring up the sugar -you didn't ask for permission-and what was up with the Lucky Strikes issues, because we are new in town and...an ice cream man? (I sidetrack easily) Is a sugar pusher, a seller of red dye #5 in Lamorinda, in our midst? When my daughter comes home a 1/2 hour later, she had a pack of Pal Malls and a Push Up. I eyed her questioningly "what Mom? The Ice Cream Man" she replied to my

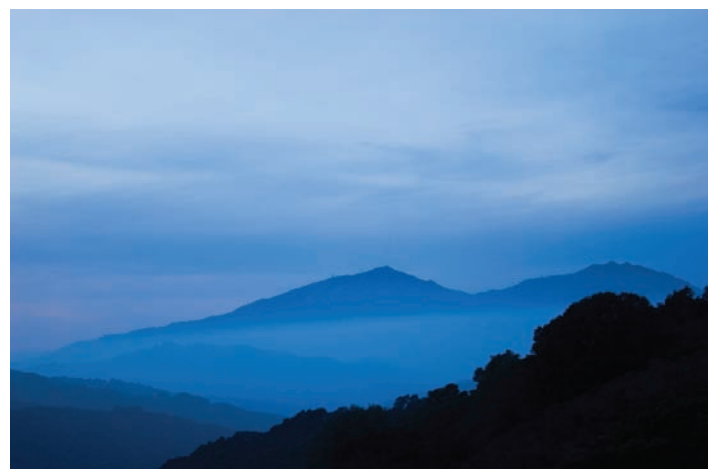
unspoken question. I stared at the refrigerator with a copy of the healthy school lunches and Red Ribbon Week flier and scowl. Shake it off helicopter lady.

The next day I must find him. I listen for the music, I slowly pace up and down near the school and he never passes by! I gaze at the trail of avid outdoor exercise enthusiasts and 'walk to school day!!!' signs floating in the wind. How did children catch the elusive man? I'm clued in later by a passing fake Camel blower that he parks on the street. He's there daily. No music. No fast and slow driving. He waits, parked on or near School Street with clamoring children waving money in their fists.

It hits me as I walk home, at the rate we're going, will there soon be a mandate on ice cream sales in proximity to schools? I enjoyed cookie sales at school as a child and now we get wrapping paper and magazine fundraisers? Next thing I know we'll be selling food recycling buckets for your waste when someone becomes tuned in to the fact that we're peddling paper. Halloween is not the only opportunity to be a kid around here; it's comforting to see some of these symbols of our childhood are still around.



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Mount Diablo in Blue Twilight from Morgan Territory

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Deer Hill Ranch Benefit

By Jennifer Wake

Girl Scout Troop 2050, along with two other troops from Burton Valley Elementary School in Lafayette, moved their bake sale to a drier location on Monday, Oct. 15 as rained sprinkled onto plates of cupcakes and cookies. Undaunted, the girls continued to call out to passing drivers who stopped for some treats. The sale was organized after the Troops learned about the fire at Deer Hill Ranch, where they had gone on a field trip last year. All proceeds from their sale went to the Ranch.



Troop 2050 in the rain selling cookies

Photo Jennifer Wake

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