

LAMORINDA WEEKLY

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Photo Tod Fierner

The city of Orinda, with funding and organizational support from the Orinda Arts Council, has a sculpture exhibit on display on the library plaza and around the community center and City Hall. Several large, museum-quality sculptures by local- and nationally-recognized artists comprise the year-long exhibit. "I've been a collector of art for many years, and I've always been fascinated by sculpture," explained Ted Urban, a member of the Orinda Arts Council. "The Council liked the idea of filling the plaza with art, and sculpture became the logical choice due to the outdoor location and exposure to weather and people."

The sculpture exhibit includes the work of 14 artists primarily from the Bay area. The pieces represent a broad expression of art subjects and styles and are made from a wide variety of materials including aluminum, painted and rusted steel, ceramic, redwood, bronze, and copper. A guide to the exhibit is posted between the garage and the plaza, and detailed information regarding the artist and the purchase price is available in the community center.



Sculpture Exhibit in Orinda

By Andrea A. Firth

Tree of Lights Ceremonies Help Those Who've Lost Remember

By Jennifer Wake

Tiny lights now twinkle on small trees along the center isle of Mt. Diablo Boulevard in Lafayette, but one tree shines tall above the rest.

On Nov. 11, in the parking lot across from La Fiesta Square on Lafayette Circle next to the Hen House, people from throughout Lamorinda gathered with candles in hand to listen to poetry, songs by the Springhill School Children's Choir, and to see the lighting of the giant oak at one of 16 Hospice Foundation of the East Bay's Tree of Lights Ceremonies – each light a symbol of the life of a donor's friend or family member.

Each year donations are collected for each light lit as a way to raise much needed funds for the Foundation which supports Hospice of the East Bay (Hospice). Funds raised help the organization care for all medically qualified patients without regard for their insurance status.

"The Foundation works to raise funds to pay for patients who are not fully covered," said Hospice Community Education Director Robin Jones. "While most Hospice patients have either private or public insurance such as Medicare or Medi-Cal, others are uninsured or underinsured. Even patients who are 'fully insured' benefit from the efforts of the Foundation when they receive services that are essential, but not covered by insurance."

Since 1995, the Hospice Tree of Lights has helped raise nearly \$900,000. Last year nearly \$90,000 was raised from more than 1,200 donors throughout the East Bay. These much needed funds also help to offset additional services that may not be covered by insurance such as frequent or lengthy visits, cost of gas to travel to patients' homes, in-home, pre-admission consults with a hospice nurse or medical social worker, and in-person bereavement support and counseling.

"We understand that death is both a spiritual and physical experience and that emotional, psychological and spiritual pain is as significant as physical pain," Jones said. "Patients, their families and loved ones are the unit of care. And bereavement care is critical to supporting surviving family members and friends. We are with the patient and family every step of the way."

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Hospice staff member Robin Jones introduces the Springhill School Children's Choir at the Lafayette Tree of Lights Ceremony

Photo Jennifer Wake

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Saint Mary's Upends 12th Ranked Oregon Ducks

By Kevin D. Shallat



Gaels stun No 12 Oregon

Photo Tod Fierner

The Gaels looked to continue their unbeaten streak this season as they hosted the University of Oregon Ducks on Tuesday, Nov. 20. Freshman Patrick Mills made history by scoring 37 points, more than any other Gael freshman in history, as he led Saint Mary's past Oregon 99-87 in front of a sold-out crowd at McKeon Pavilion.

Every player who stepped onto the floor for the Gaels made an impact in this game, but none was more spectacular and jaw dropping than Saint Mary's freshman Patrick Mills. The Australian born point guard, who will be playing for Australia in the 2008 Beijing Olympics, put on a shooting display for a global TV audience (which aired on ESPN) – as well as for seven NBA scouts in the stands.

"I guess he knew it was on TV in Australia, so he was ready," said Saint Mary's head coach Randy Bennett. Mills shot 50 percent from the field, dropped 13-14 free throws, dished out five assists,

recorded two steals, scored 37 points in 37 minutes, and had only one turnover.

"I knew playing against guys like him, (Tajuan Porter) that it would also step my game up," Mills said, "so I'm very grateful to go to those guys and take it to them. It was just a great learning experience."

The Gaels did a great job to compete, basket for basket, against a speedy and athletic Oregon team. Sophomore center Omar Samhan contributed in the first half by making a number of difficult fadeaway shots to set the tone early in the game.

Forward Maarty Leunen started off hot for the Ducks and was able to keep Oregon in the game, as he totaled seven points and eight rebounds in the first half.

However, Oregon's standout guard, Tajuan Porter, was neutralized for most of the game by a stellar Gael defense.

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