

# Life in LAMORINDA

## Local Silk Artist at Orchard Nursery

*As part of the Harvest Festival*

By Cathy Tyson



Anna George with her silk artwear

Photo provided

Lafayette artist/designer Anna George will be painting in public view, presenting her work, and fielding a few questions at Orchard Nursery's Lazy K Boutique on October 11 from 1:00 to 3:00, and again Oct 19 from 11:00 until 2:00.

Shoppers will get a rare view of how she builds her richly colored, one-of-a-kind painted designs.

She creates wraps, scarves, shawls, lovely silk shawl-jackets, also couture silks for elegant wear. Ms. George donates one scarf for

every ten purchased for women losing their hair due to cancer treatments.

"Sometimes it takes several days to produce one. There are layers of color which dry, are rendered fast, and then receive more paint. Like with fine art painting, I apply color until I have something satisfying. I use French paints made for silk, and fine Chinese silks. I'm self taught in silk painting, though I studied the fine arts in college and later sold my paintings and original décor for the home," said Ms. George.

"I want to be happy and productive, and I'm happy when I'm painting. It's been gratifying - the scarves have been very well received. And it's quite a pleasure when I'm able to witness the excitement," she continued.

She also offers a men's line of silk artwear, many of which are stone-washed. Ms George tumbles a heavier crepe with stones two times to produce an extreme softness, which has a matte look. She works in Charmeuse, China Silk,

Habotai, and Silk Satin. She is also currently working on lingerie and Alpaca. For more information see her website, www.californiapaintedsilk.com.

Ms. George notes she's "all for expanding the arts" and hopes her demonstration will inspire when she appears twice as a part of Orchard Nursery's Harvest Festival.

The Festival which features music and garden themed activities has something fun for every weekend from October 5th through Halloween. On the schedule are musical groups from classical guitar to smooth jazz to a steel drum band, a rose expert, pie contest, home composting seminar and, of course, "primp your pumpkin" decorating class. Check out these events and many others every Saturday and Sunday throughout the month. Be sure not to miss arguably the largest collection of unique pumpkins around, scarecrows and farm animals. For a complete schedule go to www.orchardnursery.com.

## Pat Adams at Wagner Ranch

By Sophie Braccini



Ida and Theodore Wagner with little George in front of their first Orinda house. Photo courtesy of the Adams'

For the first time in her life Pat Adams, the great granddaughter of Wagner Ranch founders Ida and Theodore Wagner, set foot on the remaining sixteen acres of preserved lands that once belonged to her family.

The "Friends of Wagner Ranch," the Orinda Union School District, which now owns the land, and the Orinda Historical Society were there on September 16th to greet her. It was a perfect opportunity to recall the history of Orinda and highlight the importance of preserving landmarks for future generations.

Theodore Wagner was a Surveyor General for the State of California. The couple bought the original 241-acre property in the 1880s and built first a small ranch, then an elegant two-story mansion that was the center of Orinda social life at the turn of the century.

Wagner wanted the property he called Oak View Farm to be a show farm and self-sufficient ranch. The property included a forge, a dairy barn, a brick kiln, a carbide gas plant and a winery.

The family lost most of its assets in different business ventures, capped by the failure of

the California Nevada railroad and a fire that destroyed the main house. Except for the land that Theodore Wagner had given to Orinda as a school site, the property became part of the holdings of the East Bay Water Company.

The Wagners did not leave California, but moved to Berkeley and later to Glen Ellen. Pat Adams, who was raised in Berkeley, never knew her grand-father George Wagner, who died young, but collected stories from her grand-mother Josephine, George's wife, and still possesses most of her archives.

Adams brought pictures and documents for her visit to Wagner Ranch and proposed to give some of them to the Orinda Historical Society. The Society's President, Lucy Hupp Williams, took the pictures to make copies and plan to return the originals to Adams, "That's where they belong," she said.

Toris Jaeger has been a naturalist with the Orinda School District for thirty years. Wagner Ranch has been the property of the Orinda school district since Theodore Wagner gifted it more than 100 years ago. It is the stage on which Jaeger and Wagner Ranch teachers have taught generations of children about the wonders of nature and living history.

"This place is a unique opportunity for us to teach our children about living history," says Jaeger, "the children can explore native plants and reflect on the life of Native Americans; they study early California and pioneers and imagine their lives on their property; they study biology in the ponds and creek and botany in the garden."

The Friends of Wagner Ranch say the property contains about 2000 different plants, many of which are natives like the Santa Barbara sedge, the long, fibrous roots of which were used in basket weaving by Native Americans, and some quite rare species like the original black walnut that are hard to find nowadays. The group hopes to transform the property into a non-profit entity in its own right, which would allow them to raise money to preserve it and make sure that the landmark is preserved for the future generations of Orinda children.



Pat Adams (pointing) discovers the foundation of the ranch that her great grand-father established in Orinda in 1884, with husband Rich, Toris Jaeger (left) and a member of the Orinda Historical Society. Photo Sophie Braccini

## Orinda City Business

... continued from page 4

"I think this was the biggest July 4th parade held in Orinda's history," stated Mayor Victoria Smith as she presented certificates of appreciation to Kate Wiley and Jim Luini of the Orinda Association, which organized the many event before and on the 4th; Harriet Ainsworth, a longtime Orinda volunteer who served as the Grand Marshal of the parade; and Mark Maxson, who has provided vintage car transportation for the Council members during the parade for many years.

Then it was down to business as usual, as the five-member Council and staff discussed a variety of policy matters. The

group agreed unanimously to name changes for the thoroughfares leading to the Wilder housing development and the California Shakespeare Theater. One will soon no longer see a large green sign for Gateway Boulevard after emerging from the Caldecott Tunnel and heading toward Orinda. Both Gateway Boulevard, which traverses Highway 24, and Upton Road, which leads into the housing project, will be renamed Wilder Road. The road leading to the Cal Shakes theater grounds has been modified from Shakespeare Festival Way to California Shakespeare Theater Way.

Support Lamorinda Weekly by shopping with our advertisers and telling them you saw their ad!  
Your local free Newspaper for Lamorinda

## ALL FUR LOVE PET CARE

- Daily Pet Visits while You're away
- Mid-Day Dog Walks
- Barb Pensky, Orinda owner

(925) 212-7422

One FREE Visit  
with 3 day booking, new clients only

www.AllFurLovePetCare.com

bonded & insured

## Cabinet Modifications



With over 25 years fulfilling custom needs, we can alter or modify most cabinetry, while still utilizing your existing cabinetry for:

- Large Screen, HD/Plasma TV's
- Oversized, built-in Refrigerators
- Redesigns/Alterations

Thinking about home, office, entertainment, custom cabinetry, shelving, crown mouldings, baseboards, new doors or mantels? We can help there, too!

Licensed Cabinet & Millwork Contractor #598395

925.827.1093 Paul Kephart Master Craftsman  
www.TheCabinetMd.com

Total REFLEXOLOGY Studio

replenish  
relax  
redefine

your ultimate foot massage experience

361C Rheem Blvd • Moraga • 925-377-7009  
next to 24 Hour Fitness

## NEW CENTURY Kitchen & Bath

One source, One commitment  
Specialists of stone & tile installation.  
Custom natural & engineering stone countertops,  
Cabinetry & High-End Fixtures.

Also servicing tear out & preparation.  
Your expert source in customizing your remodeling needs.

Showroom hours: Mon-Fri 8:00- 5:00, Sat 10:00-4:00  
2500 Teagarden St. Suite B  
San Leandro CA 94577  
T: 510-347-1818  
www.nckb.com



## H.R. Savage & Company, Inc.

• MORTGAGE LOANS •

Purchases • Refinances  
Fixed Rate Reverse Mortgages (no cost)

253-5920

8 Camino Encinas Suite 210 • Orinda • hrsavage@pacbell.net

REAL ESTATE BROKER-CALIFORNIA DEPT. OF R.E. LIC #01129542; D.R.E. LIC Info #916-227-0931



## 1031 EXCHANGES...

TENANT-IN-COMMON SPECIALISTS

Presidio Exchange Advisors, a branch office of Omni Brokerage, Inc

- Over the past five years, more than one out of every ten dollars invested in real estate 1031 TIC securities offerings have been transacted through OMNI Brokerage.
- Since 1995 OMNI Brokerage has completed over 3,000 TIC securities transactions.
- OMNI Brokerage is the largest broker-dealer in the 1031 TIC securities industry, based on equity raised.
- Clients have invested into real estate valued at over \$3.0 Billion through OMNI Brokerage.

OMNI Brokerage  
INVESTMENT REAL ESTATE

Securities offered through OMNI Brokerage, Inc. • Member FINRA/SIPC



DAVID WAAL  
PRINCIPAL

2950 BUSKIRK AVE., STE 300  
WALNUT CREEK,  
CA 94597

(925) 407-4747

PRESIDIO  
EXCHANGE ADVISORS

1031 Replacement Property Solutions