

Artisan and Wine Faire

Submitted by Cherie Benzie

A wide variety of artisans will display their work at the annual Artisan and Wine Faire held at the Orinda Country Club, 315 Camino Sobrante, Orinda, on Thursday, November 18 from 4:00 – 8:00. This festive event offers an array of unique creativity from local craftsmen happy to discuss their artwork with you. Several wineries will be offering samples, and you may purchase your favorite at the event.

Gail Solt will again display some of the Gemstones and beads she has collected from around the world to make into sumptuous necklaces. On a recent visit to Hawaii Gail met a fellow artist

from the University of Hawaii and together they designed some beautiful pieces showing a distinctive Hawaiian influence.

A new artist this year will show her intricate bead baskets. Sandra Wooten once lived in Santa Fe, and designs influenced by Native Americans can still be seen in her work. Each small basket offers its own unusual woven pattern created bead by bead. Symbols become an integral part of many designs often bringing a sacred quality to each piece of artwork.

Another returning artist will be welcomed back by her many patrons. Ceramic artist Gerry Wallace has spent many creative hours in

her Orinda studio picking up a variety of awards over the years. The clay she works with may take on a totally whimsical personality, become highly functional, or a purely decorative addition to your home. The common thread is the final works will all be uniquely Gerry Wallace.

Other artists will feature pottery, glass, photographic stationery, jewelry, woodwork and some truly unique clothing. The Art Faire is free and provides a beautiful venue to gather your friends. Maybe you will find the perfect holiday gift for the most challenging on your list prior to dining either at the club or in Orinda.



Gail Solt's new jewelry has a Hawaiian influence. Photo provided



Gerry Wallace's whimsical ceramics are unique. Photo provided



Sandra Wooten's bead baskets were inspired by her time in New Mexico. Photos provided

Council to Hear from Quiet Orinda

By Andrea A. Firth

Members of the citizen's group Quiet Orinda will address the Orinda City Council on November 16th to express their concerns about the air and noise pollution caused by the widespread use of leaf blowers in the city. "We want it addressed, we want relief, and we want it fast," says Peter Kendall, the group's leader.

Quiet Orinda will have fifteen minutes to present their case, and Kendall plans to have several resi-

dents and a pollution expert on hand to speak to the many aspects of the issue including a potential ordinance to limit or ban leaf blower use. "We feel that we need to educate everybody," says Kendall, adding that the City's current noise ordinance is totally inadequate to deal with the problem. Following Quiet Orinda's presentation, the Council will have the opportunity to ask questions of the group, and the public will have a chance to ad-

dress the Council on the issue in the usual three-minute allotment.

Kendall and his wife Susan have been championing their quiet cause for more than a year and it appears that people are starting to listen. Quiet Orinda recently received national coverage with a tongue-in-cheek article entitled *Blowback* by the New Yorker's Tad Friend. However, while Quiet Orinda has gained a following, not all residents support the group's goal. At the City

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