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Exclusive Screening of Wavy Gravy Movie at Town Hall

By Cathy Tyson

Town Hall Theatre is hosting a DVD release party for the film *The Wavy Gravy Movie: Saint Misbehavin'*, followed by questions and answers from the humble and hilarious do-gooder star Wavy Gravy with director Michelle Esrick and Jahana Romney – also known as Mrs. Gravy.

"People come out of the woodwork for the well-loved and highly respected Wavy," said Tom Stack, Town Hall Theatre Board Vice President and Coldwell Banker Realtor. "The film brought up a lot of emotion," he adds, "I hope that his positive energy will ripple through the universe."

The inspiring film is being shown as a fundraiser for Town Hall Theatre and also supports charities that Gravy founded – Camp Winnarainbow for kids and the Seva Foundation which provides sustainable global eye care programs, preventing blindness and providing cataract operations to restore eyesight.

Best known as the Master of Cer-

emonies at Woodstock, he attended the music and peace extravaganza as a member of the entertainment/activist commune known as Hog Farm. Wikipedia calls it "an organization considered to be America's longest running hippie commune." Hog Farm is still around and going strong, they have a headquarters in Berkeley and a large farm in Laytonville, California, known as Black Oak Ranch.

The self-described 'activist clown' has also been a Vietnam War protestor, B-movie actor and force for social change; *Saint Misbehavin'* chronicles his long, strange trip spreading a message of peace and charity. The fellow is such an iconoclast that Ben and Jerry, of the Ben & Jerry's, named an ice cream flavor after him. No actual gravy in the mix, just caramel, cashews and brazil nuts. Alas, the flavor has gone out of favor.

Director Michelle Esrick weaves together footage spanning decades with Jackson Brown, The Grateful Dead, Bonnie Raitt and many others

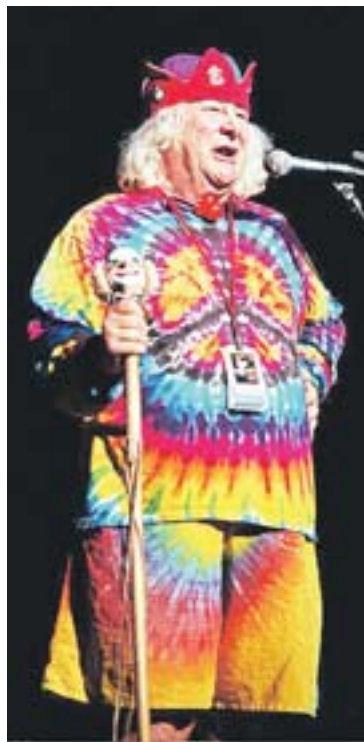


Photo courtesy Jay Blakesberg

to illustrate Wavy Gravy and his mission.

"Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. A portly, bearded, 74-year-old hippie clown, born Hugh Nanton Romney (no relation to Mitt Romney) but better known as Wavy Gravy, he has been sending ripples of good will that have gently lapped around the fringes of American culture for more than 50 years," said Stephen Holden in a New York Times review of the film.

Wavy Gravy in the flesh and a screening of the film *The Wavy Gravy Movie: Saint Misbehavin'* come to the Town Hall Theatre on Saturday, November 19. Doors open at 7:00, the show starts at 8:00, tickets are \$35 – available via the Town Hall Theatre website www.thtc.org. As usual the bar will be open, and there will be a silent auction of all kinds of memorabilia. Tom Stack, in his younger days, was involved with licensing and merchandising for the Grateful Dead— he'll be digging deep into his personal archive for treasures. The event is family friendly.

Civic News Moraga

Clean Water

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"It is more restrictive each year, although no base line has been set for the Town," says Sherbert, "Our trash reduction plan includes more frequent street sweeping and the installation of trash capture devices at the side inlets." Such devices are controversial—they require a lot of maintenance, and can cause risks or overflow when clogged.

The other element that can create clogging, though it may seem innocuous, is yard debris. "Some people have been disposing of their clipping in the creeks for years because they believe organic material will decompose," says Sherbert, "but this debris can accumulate downstream by someone else's property, create a dam and pose a risk of flooding."

The Town recommends that property owners make sure nothing will fall into the creek, keep the banks free of debris and make sure that nothing will obstruct the natural flow of water.

"Property owners who have a creek as part of their property boundary are obligated to maintain the creek bank," says Sherbert, "they can leave them natural. If nature has plants growing on creek banks it is for a reason, animals live

there and it holds the bank."

While the Town encourages all residents to help keep creek banks clean, it discourages actual entry into the creek itself. "In addition to the risk of disturbing the natural habitat and potentially protected species, there is a risk of spreading invasive plants and wildlife from one creek to the next," says Sherbert. "In particular, the New Zealand Mudsnail has recently been spreading among creeks in the East Bay. This snail has no natural predators, and can overwhelm the native species." Sherbert explains that when workers enter creek beds and streams they are required to disinfect their clothing and tools to prevent the spread of the mud snail.

The Town supports several educational efforts to inform the public of the impacts of littering and how it affects the creeks, and usually has a booth at the Pear and Wine Festival, the Community Fair, and other events to provide information and literature on how to keep the creeks and storm water clean. There is a wealth of additional information available at the Contra Costa Clean Water Program web site, www.cccleanwater.org.

Police Reserve Officers Honored

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Ben Ho was in the Navy for 24 years, he is a firearm instructor, a former eye surgeon, a search-dog handler and has been involved in numerous rescue missions all over the world. He moved to Moraga 31 years ago to raise his family and has been a Reserve for 29 years.

Also known as Moraga Orinda Fire District Division Chief Darrell Lee, 21 years ago Lee added volunteering for the Moraga Police to his to-do list. He has received extensive training in law enforcement, as well as paramedic and search and rescue. Giving back is a way of life for Lee, who believes it makes him a better human being.

Jack Lucas, who is a banker in Orinda, became a reserve in 1985 after a tragedy hit his family. He too wanted to become a police officer as a kid, but went the business route instead. Like his fellow Reserves, he undergoes regular training for certification.

In most police departments, Reserves are young people on their way to the Police Academy, waiting to get a permanent assignment. It is rare that a municipality can keep such experienced Reserves for so many years. "These four men bring invaluable service to the Department," says Moraga Chief of Police Bob Priebe, "they are such high caliber individuals and offer their unique sets of skills, to make our community safer."

The four men all agree that being a reserve officer is not for everybody. "There is risk involved," says Ho, "we carry a firearm and conduct the same police operations as any other officer."

They also all agree that they get a lot of satisfaction from the time they give to the community. "My favorite time is working in support of regular officers," says Lucas, "we have a lot of respect for them and we feel a part of the Department family." They also have the satisfaction of really making a difference in Town.

"I love working the big events like the 4th of July or Halloween," says Haskell. He tells the story of one 4th of July at the Commons—late in the evening, a young couple came up to him in a panic as they had lost their parents who suffered from dementia. "That's where the bike patrol I started for the Town was very efficient to quickly search all the adjacent areas," he says. The elderly folks were located.

Ho thinks that one of the reasons residents believe the town is safe is because of the Reserves' presence. "Very dangerous areas where high levels of criminal activity occur on a daily basis are just 20 minutes away from here," says Ho, "having enough police here, visible on the streets, is a deterrent to the escalation of violence." Ho lives in Moraga and is always ready to slip in his uniform and report for duty when he hears of an incident on his police radio, like he did a few months ago when an officer was attacked in the hills off Rancho Laguna Park.

Lee, who also spends a lot of time in Moraga where his MOFD duty calls him, says he enjoys the added responsibility; like his fellow reserves, he is proud to serve the community.

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