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## Orinda Resident Receives UC Berkeley's Top Honor

By Cathy Dausman



"I really don't think I deserved it," said long-time Orinda resident Barclay Simpson, of the Berkeley Medal he was awarded Dec. 13 during a ground-breaking celebration for the new Berkeley Art Museum. Yet among Simpson's many contributions to UC Berkeley was his chairmanship of the campaign to build that very museum.

According to the UC Berkeley website, the Berkeley Medal was established in 1981 as the university's top honor to be bestowed on individuals

"of exceptionally distinguished achievements."

Simpson admitted he was at first bewildered by the reception given in his honor, but added it was kind of fun to see the list of those who had received the medal before him, including what he wryly calls his "rather distinguished predecessors."

The owner and founder of Simpson Strong-Tie, who turns 92 in May, is as much known for his philanthropy as for his company.

"In everything he does, Barc has a positive effect on the lives around him," UC Berkeley Chancellor Robert Birgeneau said when presenting Simpson with the medal.

Friend Ellen Dale called Simpson's philanthropic work "legendary" and said both Simpson and his wife are "a local treasure." In addition to supporting the Berkeley Art Museum with print donations which included a work by Whistler, Simpson and his wife, Sharon, have a close involvement with the Cal library, the University Press, the Haas School of Business and the UC Foundation, where Simpson is still on its board of directors. The new

Simpson Student Athlete High Performance Center on the Berkeley campus is named after him.

Simpson spent a dozen years on the Bay Area Rapid Transit board of directors and raves about results from those mentored by Girls, Inc. in Oakland. Even the family trust name (Simpson PSB Fund) reflects his philosophy of "putting something back."

"Life is good," said Simpson. It's nice to know the faithful donor has gotten something back in return.

A list of previous Berkley Medal recipients can be found online at: [http://awards.berkeley.edu/pdf/Berkeley\\_Medal.pdf](http://awards.berkeley.edu/pdf/Berkeley_Medal.pdf).

Barclay Simpson, of Orinda, was the 45th recipient of the Berkeley Medal. His award was presented by UC Berkeley Chancellor Robert Birgeneau during the Dec.13 ground-breaking ceremony for the new Berkeley Art Museum. Photo Cathy Dausman

## Three Communities, One Book

Curl up with, and then share, Dave Eggers' "A Hologram for the King"

By Laurie Snyder

AN EVENING WITH DAVE EGGERS  
FEBRUARY 28  
7:00 pm  
VETERAN'S MEMORIAL BUILDING, 3780 MT. DIABLO BLVD, LAFAYETTE, CA 94549

A HOLOGRAM FOR THE KING DAVE EGGERS

Free admission. Dinner opens at 6:30 pm. First come first seated.

LAMORINDA READS

Friends of the Moraga Library Friends of the Orinda Library Friends of the Lafayette Library

Evening with Dave Eggers poster: <http://guides.ccclib.org/lamorindareads> Courtesy Contra Costa Library

Now entering its sixth year, Lamorinda Reads is already being described as one of the area's can't miss events this winter. Planners of the beloved Three Communities, One Book bonding fest have created a slate of special events designed to appeal to those who enjoy being left musing long after they have closed the covers of their well-worn tomes.

"A Hologram for the King" by Dave Eggers has been selected as the book for Lamorindans to read, share and debate with family, friends and neighbors. Copies are currently being given away free of charge through the Contra Costa Library's facilities in Orinda, Moraga, and Lafayette. Related special events will include a screening of short films, book discussion groups, a memoir writing workshop, and lectures.

Named by the New York Times as one of 2012's top ten books, Holo-

gram is sure to strike a chord with everyone from business professionals to well-traveled locals. Eggers draws readers in to his Saudi Arabian setting to explore the everyday life of a troubled businessman – illuminating the universal losses of love and livelihood, conflicts between cultures, and the human capacity for persistence in the face of failure.

In his New York Times commentary, fellow author Pico Iyer described this National Book Award finalist as "beautifully shaped" and "a clear, supremely readable parable of America in the global economy."

The culmination of the celebration – an evening with the author – will be held at Lafayette's Veterans Memorial Hall at 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 28. Get there early; this free program is likely to be standing room only. For more information, visit: <http://guides.ccclib.org/lamorindareads>.

### Lamorinda Reads! 2013:

Wholpin Short Films Screening (adults 18+), Feb. 5, 6 p.m., Moraga Library.

"A Hologram for the King" Book Discussions: Feb. 7, 10 a.m. and Feb. 21, 7 p.m., Orinda Library; Feb. 21, 6 p.m., Moraga Library.

Lecture: 826 Valencia. Learn about the nationwide non-profit network helping students 6 to 18 improve their literacy and writing skills Feb. 7, 7 p.m., Lafayette Library.

Telling Your Story – Memoir Writing Workshop (adults, 18+): Feb. 19, 1 p.m., Orinda Library.

An Evening with Dave Eggers: Feb. 28, 7 p.m., Lafayette Veterans Memorial Hall.

### Samira Says



Samira Davi is a Nurse Liaison for ManorCare Health Services in Walnut Creek. Samira has over 10 years of experience working in health care in Contra Costa County, which has gained her a wide view of what is important to the health care consumer. She will be posting common questions and comments in each issue of the Lamorinda Weekly. You are welcome to contact Samira directly at 925.270.8766

## What actually happens in a Post-Acute Rehab Center? How is this different than a "Nursing Home"?

This is the most common question I hear. So many of our patients are young, active and eager to return home.

Most of the patients I see are getting ready to have an orthopedic or cardiac surgery. When their surgeon recommends post-acute rehab as part of their recovery, fear often sets in—that's when my role starts. I coordinate with surgical offices to facilitate pre-op and pre-admit counseling sessions. Here we are able to discuss the details of post-acute rehab, and ideally arrange a tour of one of our Walnut Creek rehab centers. It is crucial that you feel safe and comfortable in a rehab center.

At the core, post-hospital or post-acute care is designed to improve your transition back to the community. As a post-acute patient, you no longer need the acute care setting of the hospital which includes around-the-clock physicians, surgery, emergency and ICU services, but still need a high level of clinical and rehabilitation care to hasten your recuperation. This may include skilled nursing, rehabilitation, dietary management, social services and discharge planning. All of your care is directed by your physician, and our team will be in regular contact with you, your family and your physician(s).

What you can expect are state-of-the art facilities with the most advanced clinical and therapeutic techniques. Our treatment plans are designed to maximize independent functioning and improve physical and psychological well being to help you transition back to your life. You can expect to be treated with respect and dignity, and to experience your recovery along side other patients with similar recovery needs.

Admission to a post-acute rehab center is coordinated between the hospital and the rehab center. Your insurance is verified, medications and treatments are ordered, and transportation is coordinated. I encourage patients and families to take the time to tour a few post-acute rehab centers prior to surgery or, in the case of an unexpected hospitalization, prior to discharge from the hospital. Once you visit our two Walnut Creek rehab centers, you'll see how we are different from the traditional "nursing home".

For more information please visit [www.manorcare.com](http://www.manorcare.com).

For a short video visit us on YouTube: [www.youtube.com/hcrmanorcare](http://www.youtube.com/hcrmanorcare)

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