

# “Divine Inspiration” Exhibit Opens at Moraga Art Gallery

Submitted by Barbara Cella



Acrylic painting “Springtime at Saint Mary’s College” by Barbara Hudler Cella Photo provided

The Moraga Art Gallery’s new show, “Divine Inspiration,” includes paintings of Saint Mary’s College by resident artist Barbara Hudler Cella, and stone and glass crochet beadwork by guest artist Mona Bourell.

Cella’s inspiration to paint Saint Mary’s College began when she happened upon the college entrance when the tree-lined street was ablaze with the brilliance of the spring bloom. The resulting painting sparked more examination of Saint Mary’s special places and its shadows and colors.

A Bay Area native, Bourell has pursued her love of beadwork for more than 30 years and refers to her work as a unique vintage technique revived. It wasn’t until the mid-1980s, while living in Africa, that Bourell truly found her creative calling, inspired by the brilliantly colorful glass beads she found there.

The show, which runs through June 1, will include works by the gallery’s 14 resident artists and several guest artists. The gallery is located in the Rheem Shopping Center at 522 Center Street, Moraga. The show is free and open to the public. For more information, visit [www.moragaartgallery.com](http://www.moragaartgallery.com) or call (925) 376-5407.



Thank you for recycling this paper. It is printed on at least 50% recycled material and vegetable based ink and should be recycled again.

## First Art Exhibit at Moraga Country Club

By Sophie Braccini



Teresa Onoda painting in the hills of Moraga. Photo provided

Because Moraga Country Club includes about 25 percent of the town’s population, MCC Executive Director Frank Melón initiates or supports actions that foster synergy between the town and the club,

including the idea of displaying local art in the new Country Club House. “This exhibition falls right into our core values,” says Melón. “Presenting scenes of Moraga made by a local artists signifies our commitment to being part of and supporting this community.”

“We have such a beautiful new building, we wanted to display art here that would complement it,” adds House Committee Chair Ginger Bagai. The ongoing project will feature local artists who will display about a dozen pieces of art for several months. The first invited painter is Moraga resident Teresa Onoda.

“I organize art sales in wineries and have worked with Teresa at Walt Wines in Sonoma,” says MCC resident and exhibition curator Cindy Raleigh. “When Ginger started talking to me about this project at the end of last year, I immediately thought of [Teresa]. I was always very impressed by her art, and I thought she would be perfect for our first exhibition with a Moraga natural beauty theme.”

Onoda was excited about the project. “It is literally a dream come true,” says Onoda. “I remember when

this building was finished, the thought crossed my mind: Wouldn’t it be perfect to display my art there? I brushed off the thought and didn’t think about it again, until I got the call from Cindy.”

Since January Onoda has been working every day on the 12 large paintings she and Raleigh talked about for the exhibit. “It is a bit unusual for an artist to paint such large canvasses outside,” said Onoda. “I always go out with weights and tie the canvass down; otherwise, with such a large surface, it would be like a sail and fly away.”

Residents stopped by while Onoda was painting at some of the locations. “I love it when people share with me their love of the beauty of our town, and when children see an artist at work,” she said.

Onoda painted some of her favorite Moraga locations. Most of the paintings are portraits of nature including views of Mulholland Ridge, Mount Diablo and daffodils. Onoda and Raleigh also wanted to add paintings related to the country club, so some of Onoda’s paintings include golfers and one is of a giant golf club bag that will be hung by the pro shop.

“Most of the paintings will be upstairs, in the bar and restaurant,” said Bagai.

Organizing the display itself was an ongoing discussion between Raleigh and Onoda. MCC has some gorgeous views that needed to be taken into account by the curator and the artist. “The light, the colors, everything has to work together to carry the observer’s eye across; it is a real composition,” explained Raleigh.

Onoda’s paintings will be for sale but will stay in the club until the next artist’s exhibit begins. “We do not know yet who it will be,” said Bagai, “someone local, but with a different style.”

There is a public reception scheduled from 6 to 8 p.m. April 25. The \$25 cost covers food from MCC chef Kevin Ables and wine from local wineries. Reservations are required. For information, call the MCC front desk at (925) 376-2200.

Those interested in viewing the exhibit following the reception, and who do not have a MCC member to escort them, can call Raleigh for an appointment at (925) 247-4067.

## Disappointing College Admissions Results? Read On!

By Elizabeth LaScala, PhD

Now that acceptances, rejections and waitlist notifications have arrived, some seniors are not too happy with their admission results. Want to try again? That’s good because there are several hundred colleges ready and waiting to consider your application. If you are a senior who is still looking for the right college to attend next fall, here are a few tips to launch your search:

**1. The Common Application** (<https://www.commonapp.org/CommonApp/default.aspx>) can help. Common Application member institutions still accepting applications may be found by going to the website and clicking on College Search (<https://www.commonapp.org/SearchEngine/SimpleSearch.aspx>) under the drop down for Member Colleges and Universities. Indicate that you are interested in “First Year” and “Fall 2013” and fill in the month, day and year deadline box. If you are looking for colleges with a deadline on or after April 15, you will see a list of 192 institutions.

**2. The Universal College Application** (<https://www.universalcollegeapp.com/>) makes the search easy by going to this link (<https://www.universalcollegeapp.com/accepting>) and finding 30 UCA member colleges still open to new applicants.

**3. Using the College Board’s Big Future search engine** (<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/college-search>) is a bit trickier. Start by using the Type of School filter to select “4-year,” “private” and “public” (this eliminates for-profit institutions and 2-year colleges). Review the other filters and select your preferences for size, location, and majors. It is best to keep your search broad and use only the most critical parameters at this

point. Then click on the “Close and see results” box. Once you have your results, go to the “Sort by” dropdown box in the upper right area of the screen and click on “Application Deadline.” Your results will start with Jan. 1 and move through the calendar year. Depending on situation and when you do your search, you will want to move through the months until you get to deadlines that are still in front of you and give you enough time to explore the college, and complete and send the application.

Keep in mind that all information is only as good as what the colleges provide to these organizations. So be sure to verify deadlines and other application-related information by going to individual college and university websites. Note that schools with “rolling admissions” consider applications until their freshmen classes are filled. If websites are unclear, contact the undergraduate admissions offices by phone or email to gain clarity. You will be surprised at how delighted they will be to hear from you!

### Other Options Exist

If you are not convinced you are ready to begin your 4-year college experience, you may benefit from starting at a 2-year college and then transferring to complete your degree. Or perhaps a Gap Year is right for you. Many colleges look favorably on this decision as long as your year is supervised, structured and productive. Students may take a career-oriented job or internship, participate in a service-based project, and/or take coursework to enhance their skillsets.

Another option is taking a post graduate year to increase your GPA and improve your chances of acceptance at more selective colleges. This option may involve significant re-

sources. For example, the boarding schools that offer this opportunity charge approximately the equivalent of one year at a private college. Students essentially take different courses, but repeat their last year in high school and apply to colleges for the next admission cycle.

Although you may find it hard to accept that you didn’t achieve your goals the first time you tried, it is a fact of life that this is often the case. Not giving up, trying again and developing alternate plans are important lessons to learn and will serve you well as times go on.

The author thanks Nancy Grieseemer, DC College Admissions Examiner, for her kind permission to rework parts of her article on the same topic (<https://www.examiner.com/article/colleges-still-accepting-applications-for-fall-2013>).



Elizabeth LaScala Ph.D. guides college, transfer and graduate school applicants through the complex world of admissions. She develops best match college lists, offers personalized interview and essay coaching, and tools and strategies to help students tackle each step of the admissions process with confidence and success. Elizabeth helps students from all backgrounds to maximize merit and financial aid awards. Visit [www.doingcollege.com](http://www.doingcollege.com); Call (925) 891-4491 or email at [elizabeth@doingcollege.com](mailto:elizabeth@doingcollege.com).



Brian Clark, Psy.D.  
licensed clinical psychologist  
PSY 25198

ADOLESCENTS  
ADULTS · FAMILIES

specializing in:  
Achievement Pressure  
AD/HD  
Parenting Support  
Anxiety  
School Stress  
Depression

954 Risa Road · Lafayette  
(925) 385-8050  
[www.brianclarkpsy.com](http://www.brianclarkpsy.com)

## College Success!

Getting in and getting the most out of college

Contact Elizabeth LaScala for accurate, complete and personalized counseling about:

- Selection of College Major
- Best Match College Lists
- SAT & ACT Prep That’s Right for You
- Strong Extracurricular Experiences
- Making College Affordable



Elizabeth LaScala, PhD  
925-891-4491  
[www.doingcollege.com](http://www.doingcollege.com)



Shop **locally** whenever you can.

Only your support of our **local** businesses will keep them open!