

Lamorindans Invited to Honor the Late Wayne F. Miller, Legendary Photographer and Orinda Resident

By Laurie Snyder



"Resignation," responded Miller when asked to describe this math test moment experienced at some point by every student, everywhere. Copyright, Wayne F. Miller, 1958. Used with permission.

The family of long-time Orindan, Wayne F. Miller, has extended an invitation to area residents to join in celebrating his life and work at 2 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 15 at the Lafayette Veterans' Memorial Building in Lafayette.

Miller, who passed away in May at the age of 94, preserved forever the faces of America's World War II fighting men, and chronicled the early aftermath of the atomic bomb drop at Hiroshima. After documenting the experience of Chicago's post-war black society, he turned his lens on Orinda. His 1958 book, "The World Is Young," captured life in a largely undeveloped, but growing town.

His photos of wife, Joan, and newborn son, David, were included in the New York Museum of Modern Art's acclaimed Family of Man Exhibit. One captured David's delivery by Miller's own physician-father. Chosen by Carl Sagan's team to be one of just 115 images and sounds to tell Earth's story, it still travels the galaxy aboard Voyager I and is currently at the heliosphere's edge in interstellar space. Asked by this reporter in 2012 if he thought someone or something "out there" might eventually find it, Miller's eyes twinkled. "That would be kind of fun to find out, wouldn't it?"

Shifting his focus away from photography, Miller and his wife

spent decades sharing their passion for California's redwood forests with their sons and daughters, Jeanette and Dana. "That is the most exciting experience in the world to be amongst those young trees and old trees," he said as he pointed to a very tall redwood in his Orinda back yard. Nurtured from infancy by Joan, they named it after son, Peter, the young boy contemplating a butterfly on the cover of "The World Is Young."

Wayne Miller's passing was heralded by LeMonde in France, the New York Times, and by other major news outlets across the globe. On Sept. 15, his neighbors and hometown fans will celebrate a life well lived.

Eau de Upgrade

Petroleum smell permeates road paving progress

By Cathy Dausman



Measure K replacing trucks

Photo Cathy Dausman

Sometimes the sweet smell of progress smells a little less ... sweet. Take the road paving process in Moraga, for example. Heavy machinery bearing rather unrefined petroleum product rolls along the area

as the town undertakes its three year plan to upgrade street surfaces. About the same time, Pacific Gas and Electric Co. spokesperson Tamar Sarkissian confirmed her company began fielding calls from

Moraga residents who reported an odor similar to gas.

"We received more than 20 calls since August 20, and have sent out a gas service representative each time to investigate," she said. "Each time, it has been confirmed that the odor is not coming from natural gas. It has been determined this is actually an odor coming from a local street repaving job, and not related to PG&E," she said.

Moraga-Orinda Fire Department also received one call near the end of August from a resident concerned about the smell. MOFD Fire Marshall Kathy Leonard said PG&E had opened a utility vault to complete an upgrade, possibly venting gas, albeit safely, along a stretch of St. Mary's Road near Bollinger Canyon Road.

Leonard said MOFD had posted a fire watch as required.

Mike Koenig, project manager

for VSS International says he "absolutely" knows the truck contents smell.

"I don't know why [it smells the way it does]," he said, but "wherever the truck is [the smell is there too]." The trucks carry a Department of Transportation sign designating the contents as hot asphalt, and bearing the placard number 3257.

"The asphalt is heated to 325 degrees," Koenig added.

"There's not much they can do [about the smell]," added Ryan Perry of Harris Associates. Perry did say he'd suggest the Moraga street paving Facebook page to include information about related petroleum smells.

Naturally, safety is everyone's foremost concern: "Safety is our top priority," PG&E's Sarkissian said, "and we take these kinds of calls seriously. Any time a customer sus-

pects they may be smelling gas, we encourage them to call 1-800-PGE-5000 immediately."

Leonard said while MOFD fire department trucks have equipment used to "sniff" for suspicious gas smells, she added "please, any time people are concerned [about a gas smell] they should call 911."

Want to Learn More?

Petroleum refinement, from crude oil to gasoline is discussed online at: <http://science.howstuffworks.com/environmental/energy/oil-refining.htm>. The placard designation system ("what's in that truck?") is explained online at <http://tinyurl.com/lshub76>.

Lifelong Learning This Fall in Lafayette

By Cathy Tyson



Film critic Michael Fox makes a presentation at an open house. Photo provided

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute is coming east of the tunnel. Affiliated with UC Berkeley, OLLI is an educational program for lifelong learners who have reached the half century mark and beyond. They are offering two classes starting this fall at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center that while interesting and informative offer brain fitness as a special added bonus to attendees.

"There is growing evidence that activities that provide novelty and challenge build a stronger brain and contribute to longevity," said Satya Levine, communications coordinator for OLLI. For mature students these classes, taught by experts in the subject matter, explore music and movies respectively, but without pesky exams or grades.

"Engaging in the community and challenging ourselves to learn new things - to go beyond our comfort zones - are two pillars of brain health and longevity. OLLI aims to address both of these factors and to have fun doing it," said OLLI Director Susan Hoffman.

While OLLI has offered classes in Berkeley for some time it is continuing its successful relationship with the Lafayette community. "We are pleased to offer two courses at the Lafayette Library. Film critic Michael Fox will discuss the 2013 Oscar contenders for the best documentary feature and musicologist John Prescott will trace developments

in classical music from the Middle Ages to today," said Hoffman.

In "Top docs: 2013 Oscar Nominees," students will watch one of the 2013 documentary film finalists each week and discuss goals, strategy, storytelling and more while considering the filmmaker's point of view. Instructor Fox is a professional film critic and journalist.

"A Listener's Introduction to Classical Music" instructor Prescott, a musicologist who taught at UC Berkeley and at the Crowden School, invites students who like classical music but don't know the difference between a symphony and a sonata to learn more.

An information session discussing both classes will be held at the Lafayette Library's Community Hall from 3 to 4:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 12. The classes will be held on Thursdays, starting Oct. 3. For more information or to register, visit olli.berkeley.edu or call (510) 642-9934.

In addition to the OLLI classes, the Lafayette Library and Learning Center Foundation offers an array of interesting events, that also provide a mental workout; in the next four weeks look for learning and entertainment options including a Commonwealth Club event, Hiking Inn to Inn discussion, the Gold Coast Chamber Players, and the San Francisco Opera Guild and more. For more information, visit www.lllcf.org.

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