

Sports Plug

By Cathy Dausman



Photos Cathy Dausman

Pity the lowly fire hydrant – a bland, stubby affair resembling R2D2's distant, poor cousin. We barely give it a glance. But add a splash of paint, and suddenly it becomes a canvas for a bold sports statement. One Lamorinda fire hydrant has worn at least three coats since its installment. It began by showing Cal (Berkeley) pride. Next it went "pro"

to make a Giant statement. Currently it's "game on" in the East Bay covered in a Golden State Warriors logo. If this humble hydrant sets you on fire, a more complete collection covering hydrants throughout all 50 states is available in Sean Crane's coffee table book "American Hydrant," published by Santa Monica Press in 2004.



Orinda Siblings to Attend Summer Academic Programs for the Gifted

Submitted by Myra Ozaeta



From left: Heath, Haley and John Mark Ozaeta Photo provided

Rising Orinda Intermediate School eighth graders Haley and John Mark Ozaeta, and their brother Heath Ozaeta, a rising fourth grader at Del Rey Elementary School, are spending the summer at the Columbia University Summer Institute for the Gifted, the Johns Hopkins Center for Talented Youth, and the UC Berkeley Summer Institute for the Gifted, respectively. The format of the programs makes it possible for bright students to work at an accelerated pace, study topics in depth, and explore subjects that are not usually available to students their age. This

summer, John Mark will complete the program in international relations, Haley is enrolled in engineering and technology development courses, and Heath is studying public speaking and writing. The Ozaetas qualified for the gifted programs by participating in the Center for Talented Youth's annual talent search, which accepts applications from early September through May. For information about the CTY Talent Search, go to www.cty.jhu.edu. For info about the Summer Institute for the Gifted, visit <http://www.giftedstudy.org/>.

'On Looking' Opens Eyes to Local Writer's (and Walker's) World

... continued from page B2

It's simply fun to read Horowitz's breezy depictions of people and places—and easy to form an instant picture of the intricate spaces and faces she encounters. When the book's "fresh eyes" message begins to creep into greater consciousness, we too can see a patient behind an IV, recognize weariness in a walk, or even begin to "see" with our ears or sense of smell.

The best books, films, athletic events, conversations and vacations—all a natural part of slowed-down summer months – change us. Thrilling or enthralling, significant

"outings," whether literal or cerebral, endure beyond the pages of a book, a play's final scenes or remembered home runs.

"On Looking" reminds us to pay attention; to venture out the door looking for excellent adventure. Better yet, with the author's "no mandate, only opportunity" encouragement, we might look upon a loved one's all-too-familiar face and with enhanced focus, see something new. We might slip out the door, alone or with a companion, free from sitting and independent of the setting, and think, "Oh, to walk!"

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