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Moraga Commons Park becomes a festive outdoor banquet hall as residents celebrate the 40th anniversary of their town's incorporation.

Photo A. Scheck



Happy Birthday, Moraga!

Opting to save the speech-making for a later event, aside from a brief toast to the town offered by mayor Ken Chew, the town of Moraga threw itself a party to celebrate its 40th birthday. Moragans young and old – well, mostly older-ish – came together at the Moraga Commons Park Sept. 23 for a potluck picnic dinner that was outdoor dining at its very best.

Humorously emceed by Moraga's own DJ RyanO, with entertainment provided by talented musicians from Campolindo High School, highlights of the evening included a chat with the

woman who has possibly lived in town longer than anyone, 70-year resident Susan Sperry, and a table-decorating contest judged by members of the town's Park and Recreation Commission. Fabulous tables created by residents and local organizations included a spectacular pear "tree" complete with birthday candles and Moraga trivia questions, elaborate displays of pears, grapes and flowers, recycled decorations made from several recent issues of Lamorinda Weekly, and some intriguing artifacts of days gone by.

The Moraga Historical Society, in partnership with the Town of Moraga and Saint Mary's College, will host a cele-

bratory dinner on Saturday, Oct. 18 at SMC's Soda Center. Speakers will include former mayors from each of the town's four decades of incorporation. The registration deadline is Oct. 10, so if you haven't made your reservation yet go quickly to www.moragahistory.org and click on "Events" or call Sperry, (925) 376-3053.

To read Sophie Braccini's Aug. 27 article about the incorporation of the Town of Moraga, visit our archives: www.lamorindaweekly.com/archive/issue0813/Moraga-Turns-40.html. – *L. Borrowman*

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Orinda Honors the Memory of Its First Mayor

By Laurie Snyder



Bea Heggie and her family, with the portrait of Richard Heggie. Photo Ohlen Alexander

"The new city of Orinda has a bright future. Our city council members-elect are dedicated both to maintaining all that we love about our community, and to making it an even better place in which to live." – Richard G. Heggie

Those were the words of Orinda's first mayor, sent to a local newspaper after he was elected to Orinda's first city council. It was a heady time. Richard Heggie had been a key player in helping the community incorporate. On March 14, 1985, 58.7 percent of voters turned Orinda into the county's 18th city with 66.6 percent selecting the city council as the preferred form of governance. As the top vote getter of the 17 Orindans who ran that first time, Heggie was named Orinda's first mayor. Joining him on that council were Joseph M. Harb, William Dabel, Aldo P. Guidotti, and Bobbie Landers.

Landers would go on to become mayor herself and, nearly three decades later, she was there when current officials renamed the second floor area in front of the Orinda Library in honor of the man she called "a distinguished man of letters – my cohort, my fellow councilman, my friend."

The "Richard Heggie Plaza" dedication on Sept. 28 was led by Councilmember Victoria Smith. A former mayor herself, she welcomed residents, Heggie's family and other honored guests, and conveyed the praise of her fellow council members. "We have taken the extraordinary step of recognizing Mayor Dick Heggie with this plaza naming because his gifts of time and talent were extraordinary," wrote vice mayor Steve Glazer. Added three-time mayor and current council member Amy Worth, "Dick set the bar high for the city. He was always gentlemanly, constructive and forward thinking."

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please...



...thanks

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Time to ward off the vampires and plant the stinking rose - page D13.

