



ORINDA

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Grand opening of Art and Garden Center gallery curated by Lamorinda Arts Council



Photo Sora O'Doherty

By Sora O'Doherty

The public had the opportunity to meet featured artist Judy Chamberlin of Walnut Creek at the grand opening of the art gallery at the Art and Garden Center at Wilder on July 6. Chamberlin is well known for her large-scale oil and acrylic paintings including figurative work, such as portraits, animals, and murals, in addition to expressive biomorphic abstracts. An example of the latter is "Suddenly," a large painting in vibrant colors which is included in the exhibition.

Chamberlin says that she paints with the intention of producing works that are healing, either to herself or others. She was moved when a veteran who suffered with Post Trau-

matic Stress Disorder found that her paintings enabled him to still his body, which otherwise was subject to tremors. He purchased a painting on exhibition in Lafayette, and later, several others.

The Lamorinda Arts Council organizes and curates both the existing gallery at the Orinda Library and the new gallery at the Art and Garden

center. The goal of the LAC is primarily to highlight local artists. The two galleries are curated by Denise Nomura, Maggie Boscoe, Elana O'Loskey and Bill Carmel. Nomura says that the LAC is "excited to manage this new venue, the Art Gallery at Wilder, to further promote art in our community."

Artists install their own exhibits at both the Art Gallery at Orinda and at Wilder. Nomura explained that, when the exhibits are installed, "we want the viewer to have an enriching experience while looking at the artwork. As such, we think about the artwork layout, how it interacts with each other and we want the flow to make sense. Each exhibit provides its own unique experience."

There is a very efficient hanging system in both galleries that allows the artists a lot of flexibility in positioning their artwork to their liking. In a gallery, hanging systems are of the utmost importance, Nomura explained. "We discovered the Walker Hanging System because we had seen it at

The Reutlinger Community in Danville where they have it installed on three floors of their main building. Betty Rothaus, Art Director at The Reutlinger looked at many hanging systems before choosing this one. She had been hanging different kinds of art on it for the past two years and was very happy with its performance. We have had it at the Art Gallery at the Orinda Library now for one year and are very pleased with it."

Nomura also discussed ongoing projects at both the Art Gallery at the Orinda Library and the Art Gallery at Wilder. The LAC is currently seeking grants to provide spot lighting for the artwork. "Each space has adequate lighting for safety but not adequate enough lighting for viewing the artwork, especially on overcast days or in the evening," Nomura said. "We are hoping to add spot lighting in the Art Gallery at Wilder, and at the Orinda Library location we want to add it to the four wood walls across from the library entrance on the second floor."

The Art Gallery at Wilder is currently open by appointment only. Please contact the curator at wildergallery@lamorindaarts.org

From Broadway to Opera, Orinda Rotary presents Opera in the Park

By Sora O'Doherty

Solo Opera teams up again this year with the Orinda Rotary Club to present the club's 11th annual Opera in the Park on Sunday, July 28, from 5 to 7 p.m. at Orinda Community Park. Sponsored by the Orinda Rotary, the free performance, which usually attracts at least 1,000 people, is an opportunity to hear professional opera singers perform favorite arias, duets, and ensembles, which organizers say will thrill even non-opera lovers. This year there will also be a few musical theater pieces added to the mix.

"We have assembled a truly spectacular line-up of talent," says Sylvia Amorino, Solo Opera's artistic director and producer and master of ceremonies for the concert. According to Amorino, the program includes eight singers who have performed at San Francisco Opera, San Francisco Symphony, Lyric Opera of Chicago, Opera San Jose, West Bay Opera, Carnegie Hall, Opera Parallèle, etc.

The performers include: sopranos Liisa Dávila and Diane Squires, mezzosopranos Silvie Jensen and Katja Heuzeroth, tenors Chester Pidduck and Stephen Cannon, baritones William O'Neill and Bradley Kynard; and pianist Chun Mei Wilson. The singers will perform greatest hits from shows such as "Faust," "Norma," "Carmen," "Rigoletto," "Porgy and Bess," "La Bohème," "La Traviata," and "West Side Story."

Enjoying live opera has become so expensive that it's almost impossible for the average family to attend. Solo Opera and Orinda Rotary's free Opera in the Park is a fine way to introduce children to opera, or even friends who might never go to see and hear live opera, organizers say. There is a running commentary on the works that the master of ceremonies shares so even the novice can understand the operatic plots. The music chosen is very likable, and the master of ceremony's short explanations of what is happening in each piece or section will make it even more enjoyable.



Liisa Davila at a prior Opera in the Park .

Photo provided

Those who attend the Opera in the Park will enjoy the following program:

"Man of La Mancha" (Leigh) "The Impossible Dream," performed by William O'Neill; "Samson Et Dalila" (Saint-Saëns) "Amour! viens aider ma faiblesse," performed by Silvie Jensen; "Werther" (Massenet) "Va! laisse couler mes larmes," performed by Katja Heuzeroth; "La Bohème" (Puccini) "Che gelida manina," performed by Stephen Cannon and "O Mimì, tu più non torni," performed by William O'Neill and Chester Pidduck; "Faust" (Gounod) "Avant de quitter ces lieux," performed by Bradley Kynard, and "Ah! je ris de me voir si belle en ce miroir," performed by Liisa Dávila; "Rigoletto" (Verdi) "Caro nome," performed by Diane Squires, "La donna è mobile," performed by Chester Pidduck, and "Bella figlia dell'amore," performed by Stephen Cannon, Silvie Jensen, Diane Squires, and Bradley Kynard.

After intermission, the program takes a turn towards Broadway with two numbers

from "West Side Story" (Bernstein) "Maria," performed by Chester Pidduck and "I Feel Pretty," performed by Katja Heuzeroth. Also from the Broadway stage are the selections from "Porgy and Bess" (Gershwin) "Summertime," performed by Diane Squires, "A Woman is a Sometime Thing," performed by Bradley Kynard, and "My Man's Gone Now," performed by Silvie Jensen.

Rounding out the evening will be selections from "Norma" (Bellini) "Casta diva," performed by Liisa Dávila, "Mira, o Norma," performed by Katja Heuzeroth and Diane Squires; "Carmen" (Bizet) "Habenera," performed by Silvie Jensen, "Votre toast," performed by William O'Neill, and "Je dis que rien ne m'épouvante," performed by Liisa Dávila; and from "La Traviata" (Verdi) "Parigi, o cara," performed by Stephen Cannon and Liisa Dávila, and "Libiamo ne' lieti calici," performed by Stephen Cannon, Diane Squires, and all the cast will bring the program to a close.

Rheem easement is now a park



An easement that was used for decades to provide access from homes in the Rheem Boulevard area to Glorietta Elementary School has been reopened as an Orinda city park after the city settled its dispute with the owners of the adjacent property for \$45,500. Although the owner has promised to build a fence to separate the property from the easement, the fence has not yet been installed. As in other

city parks that are unlit, the easement allows for pedestrian use from dawn to dusk only. Bicycles may be walked and dogs must be on leash.

- S. O'Doherty

Photos Sora O'Doherty

Golden Gate

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Orinda Public Meetings



City Council
Tuesday, July 16, 7 p.m.
Regular Meeting
Library Auditorium, Orinda Library, 26 Orinda Way
Planning Commission
Tuesday, July 23, 7 p.m.
Library Auditorium, Orinda Library, 26 Orinda Way

Citizens' Infrastructure Oversight Commission
Wednesday, July 10, 6:30 p.m.
Sarge Littlehale Community Room, 22 Orinda Way, Orinda, CA 94563
Orinda Union High School District Board Meetings
Monday, Aug. 12, 6 p.m.
Regular Board Meeting
8 Altarinda Rd., Orinda www.orindaschools.org
See also AUHSD meeting page A2