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# Orinda Historical Society Newsletter

September 2007

P. O. BOX 82, ORINDA, CA 94563

(925) 254-1353

## Museum Location

Lower Level of  
Orinda Library  
26 Orinda Way

## Museum Hours of Operation

Monday, Wednesday,  
& Friday 3-5 p.m.  
Also by Appointment  
24 Hour Answering Machine  
925-254-1353  
[www.orindahistory.org](http://www.orindahistory.org)

## Artist Joe Cleary to Speak at Holiday Dinner



Long time Orinda resident Joe Cleary will speak at the annual Orinda Historical Society dinner. This is traditionally the Orinda Historical Society's big event of the year. It will be held at the Orinda Community Church on December 5th at 6:30 pm.

Joe Cleary is a renowned artist who creates paintings and sculpture as both private and public works of art. As a sculptor, Joe has some incredible public pieces on display in places as diverse as Japan, Chicago, and New Orleans. He will talk about the process he went through to create one of his more famous works, *Mother River Memorial*, that is currently on display in New Orleans. This is a very large piece of art that miraculously survived Hurricane Katrina. Joe, who has lived in Orinda for 46 years, became interested in art about 30 years ago. This is sure to be a fascinating talk.

## Orinda Union School 60 Year Reunion

### Upcoming Events

- **OHS Holiday Dinner**  
Wednesday, December 5th,  
6:30 pm to 9 pm at the  
Orinda Community Church,  
10 Irwin Way
- **October Board Meeting**  
Wednesday, October 17th, 3  
to 5 pm at the OHS Museum
- **November Board Meeting**  
Wednesday, November 14th,  
7 pm at the OHS Museum



Orinda Union School 8th Grade Class in 1947

### Holiday Shopping

OHS will have a  
booth at the Orinda  
Holiday Bazaar on  
November 3 & 4

The Orinda Union School's graduating 8th grade class of 1947 recently held their 60 year reunion. They enjoyed a weekend of fun and memories, starting with dinner at the Orinda Country Club, a Sunday picnic in the park, followed by a visit to the OHS museum. Surprisingly, this isn't the first such grammar school reunion for Orinda Union School, the class of 1949 held a get together last summer.

Before the 1950s there was no middle school in Orinda (Pine Grove Intermediate school opened in 1956), so Orinda Union School included Kindergarten through 8th

**Welcome New Members**

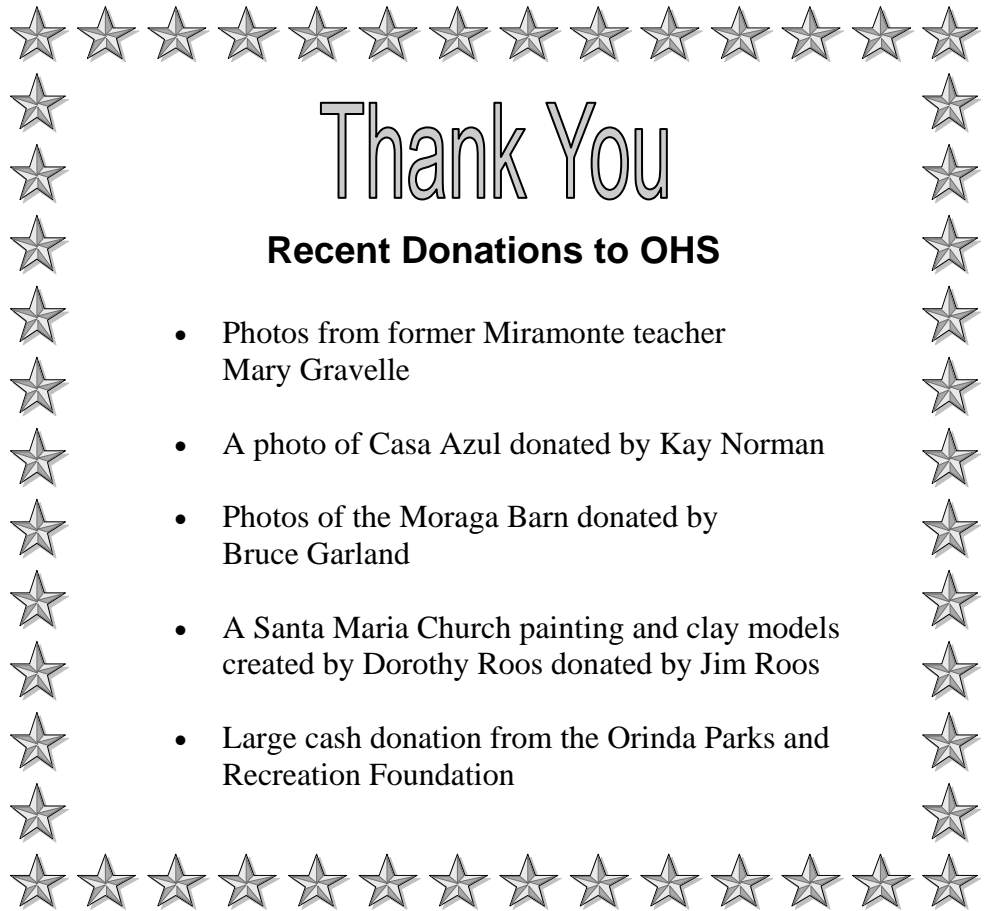
Jeannine Kikkert  
 Jim Negri  
 Diane Owen  
 Deborah Sanford  
 Diane & Tim Sharp  
 Robert Wickman

**Volunteers Needed To:**

- Create OHS Window Displays
- Clip newspaper articles about Orinda events, obituaries etc.
- Schedule people to work at the museum during open hours

*Call the OHS Museum at 254-1353 if you can help.*

*Thank you to Rose Bolin, the owner of Treible's in Orinda, for generously providing the printing of this newsletter.*



# Thank You

## Recent Donations to OHS

- Photos from former Miramonte teacher Mary Gravelle
- A photo of Casa Azul donated by Kay Norman
- Photos of the Moraga Barn donated by Bruce Garland
- A Santa Maria Church painting and clay models created by Dorothy Roos donated by Jim Roos
- Large cash donation from the Orinda Parks and Recreation Foundation

## 60 Year Reunion *(continued from page 1)*

grade. After graduation it was off to Acalanes High School in Lafayette for all Orinda students. Graduating from 8th grade was a big deal back then.

Almost twenty-five students attended the reunion which was organized by alumnus Jim Hall. At the Orinda Historical Society Museum, the reunion attendees enjoyed looking at old photos and maps, telling stories, and examining artifacts. The photograph shown was taken during this visit to the museum and shows reunion attendees Diane Owen and Daryl Broderick enjoying their visit with OHS president Lucy Hupp Williams.



OHS President Lucy Hupp Williams (left) with Class of 1947 Alumni Diane Owen (center) and Daryl Broderick (right)

## **OHS Board Members** **2007/2008**

**President:** Lucy Hupp Williams  
(650) 349-3382

**Vice President:** Erik Andersen  
(925) 254-8444

**Treasurer:** Betty Karplus  
(925) 254-4970

**Recording Secretary:** Carl Weber  
(925) 254-8473

**Archivist:** Kent Long  
(925) 258-9771

**Assistant Archivist/Database:**  
Dan Holmes  
(925) 254-3360

**Membership:** Sarah Douglas  
(925) 254-1128

**At-Large:** Charles Blue  
(925) 254-2324

**At-Large:** Susan Ross  
(925) 254-3720

**Displays:** Open

**Tours:** John Holmgren  
(925) 254-5677

**Newsletter:** Teresa Long  
(925) 258-9771

**Finance/City Liaison:** Carl Weber  
(925) 254-8473

**School Liaison:** Kay Norman  
(925) 254-9536

**Videographer:** Jerry Vurek  
(925) 253-7995

## *Thank You to Our Wonderful Volunteers*

Orinda history couldn't happen without our volunteers? Well, of course that's not true, but without people to record, celebrate and organize our memorabilia, history could just slip away silently.

### **OHS Displays, Barbara Burkhalter**

If you've been around the OHS museum during the past couple of years, you have surely noticed the fantastic window displays. Every so often a new display just seems to materialize. Orinda swimming teams, school history, Orinda Theater & Film Festival, Casa Orinda, and Women Sing are among the subjects that have been exhibited. OHS Display Coordinator Barbara Burkhalter has been the creative force behind these displays; not only has she given the OHS windows a professional and appealing appearance, but she has made them full of interesting historical information. OHS has been fortunate to have such a talented volunteer for the past four years. However, Barbara has recently taken on the job of Wagner Ranch School librarian and therefore must give up her duties as display person. Many thanks to Barbara for all her creative energy and enthusiasm.



Barbara Burkhalter

### **Treasurer, Pat Draa**

The Orinda Historical Society was lucky to have Pat Draa doing financial duty as OHS Treasurer for four years. She retired last spring to pursue her interests which include traveling and quilting.

Pat was always there to lend a helping hand; she stepped up and did membership for a while until that position was filled. She has helped with holiday dinner planning, and other various OHS activities. Thank you Pat for all your hard work and the time that you gave to OHS; it is very much appreciated.



Pat Draa

Last spring, Betty Karplus generously stepped forward to be the new OHS Treasurer.

### **OHS has "New" File Cabinets**



When the city of Orinda moved to their new city offices they donated four of their slightly used file cabinets to the Orinda Historical Society. These cabinets have made a huge difference in organizing and cleaning up our back room and storage area. Thank you to the City of Orinda for this generous and very useful donation.

However, it took the strength of **Dan Holmes, Spencer Holmes** and **Dave Starkweather** to muscle them down to the OHS museum from the city hall. A big thank you to all three of them to make this happen. Also, thanks go out to the group of student volunteers who helped load and reload the cabinets

In the spirit of recycle and reuse, OHS donated their old files cabinets to Wagner Ranch school for use in the Nature Area.

## Third Graders from Glorietta Say Thanks

Kay Norman has been doing school tours for OHS for 10 years now. She enjoys helping the third graders from the Orinda elementary schools learn Orinda History. Local history is part of the third grade curriculum in California.

Kay, who is a long-time Orinda Historical Society member and volunteer, starts her school tours at the OHS museum then she leads the students on a walking tour of the village then makes stops at the BART station, the Orinda theater, and finally the old de Laveaga train depot. "This is the children's favorite stop with all the train memorabilia to look at," says Kay. Kay has given tours for Del Rey, Glorietta, and Sleepy Hollow schools.

After taking Glorietta students from Mrs. Britten's class on a tour last spring, Kay received many thoughtful thank you letters from the students.



Here are just two of the letters. One written by a group of boys, Gabe, Jackson, Ryan S., and Ryan A. Another from a group of girls, Laura, Bloom, Haley, Lewis, Chiana Marley, and Marisa Shivers.

Kay's favorite line written by the third graders is, "Your job sounds amazing and cool."

"It is," Kay agrees.

The school tours are just one of the ways that the Orinda Historical Society provides service to our community. For more information on school tours, contact Kay Norman at 254-9536.

