Fandango Supports Restoration of Joaquin Moraga Adobe

By DAVID DIERKS
Assistant Editor

The Friends of the Joaquin Moraga Adobe (FJMA) are hosting a contemporary fandango at the Buehler House on Sept. 13. Traditional fandangos were celebrations of music, dance and good company held during California’s Rancho era (1769-1848). The equivalent of neighborhood parties, fandangos often lasted for days and drew guests from great distances. FJMA’s contemporary fandango includes live music, traditional dance performance, tapas and drinks, as well as tours of the Buehler House, its gardens and teahouse. Frank Lloyd Wright designed the home, and Wright experts will be on hand to answer questions.

The Buehler House, which sits on 3.5 acres, was built in 1948 for Maynard and Kate Buehler. Henry Matsutani, who also

Lamorinda Idol Finalists Gear Up for September Competition

By KATHRYN G. MCCARTY
Staff Writer

Popular television programs like American Idol and America’s Got Talent have inspired arts groups across the country to feature young hopeful talent in similar hometown shows. On Sunday, September 7, 34 soloists and 11 groups will be featured in the Ninth Annual Lamorinda Idol show. The performers include students ranging in age from kindergarten through high school who reside in Orinda, Lafayette and Moraga. While the reality television shows tend to be high on the dynamics and competition, Lamorinda Idol offers a different type of environment. Publicity co-chair Esther Becker, whose daughter Elizabeth has performed in several Idol shows, points out the supportive behavior of the show’s performers and staff, fostering a “learning experience,” rather than being competitive.

The Orinda Arts Council, the founder and sponsor of the event, is supported by more than two dozen community members who make up the administrative staff for the show, along with several business sponsors including the Orinda Car Show, Alain Pinel Realtors, Mechanics Bank, Orinda Orthodontics and the Orinda Community

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