

LOCAL EVENTS

Fandango Supports Restoration of Joaquin Moraga Adobe



DAVID DIERKS

(L-R) Tania de Groot, Kelly Gilmore, Holly Burke, Bobbie Landers, Sylvia dos Remedios, Stephen dos Remedios, Gayle Larson and Teresa Long pose outside of the Buehler House designed by Frank Lloyd Wright. The home will serve as the site for the Joaquin Moraga Adobe fundraiser.

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

designed the Japanese Gardens in Golden Gate Park, the gardens and a Japanese teahouse. In addition to the house, Wright designed a number of furniture pieces that still reside in the home. The Buehlers lived in the home from the time it was built until 2010. The home was placed on the National Register of Historic Homes in 2006. The house was recently sold to Gerald Shmavonian, who offered the property as a venue for the FJMA fandango.

FJMA is a non-profit organization working to restore the family home of Don Joaquin Moraga. Built in 1841, the adobe is the oldest surviving building in Contra Costa County. The adobe was placed on the California State Historical Landmark list in 1954 and became an Orinda City Landmark in 1995. Fandangos at the Moraga Adobe during Joaquin Moraga's time likely hosted families from Sonoma and the central valley. Proceeds from the

contemporary fandango will begin the restoration of the home. Future plans for the adobe include a museum and learning center.

Tickets for the fandango come in two tiers, \$100 general admission and \$300 guided tours. The general admission ticket gives access to the Buehler House grounds, garden and the fandango. The guided tour ticket includes all the benefits of the general admission ticket, as well as a guided tour of

the Buehler House and a champagne reception. Guided tours begin at 5 pm, 5:20 pm, 5:40 pm and 6 pm. Since there is no parking available at the Buehler House, FJMA is providing free parking and a shuttle service between several parking lots in Orinda: Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church, St. Mark's United Methodist Church and Glorietta Elementary School.

For more information, visit www.moragaadobe.org or call 925-254-8260.

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Lamorinda Idol Finalists Gear Up for September Competition

By KATHRYGN 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 dramatics and competi-

tion, 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, fosters 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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