

## FUNDRAISERS

## Help Restore Moraga Adobe for Future Generations

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Contributing Writer

Isabella Chow stands outside a construction fence. She stares at a graffiti-strewn building, imagines it restored to its old grandeur and dreams of visiting some day in the near future with other schoolchildren. The structure dates back to 1841 and is the oldest adobe building in Contra Costa County.

Joaquin Moraga came to this land grant to establish a home and family on 20,000 acres. Despite its many alterations through the years, the original Adobe has survived and is awaiting renovation. A 501(c)3 organization, The Friends of the Joaquin Moraga Adobe, is raising the funds to create a Learning Center and Museum of the Rancho Period in California.

Restoration money must be raised to match the developer's investment. Eleven-

yr-old Isabella has raised \$360 on her own by selling eggs from her own chickens and doing odd jobs. She and her family often hike up the long driveway to enjoy the fabulous views and imagine living the pioneer life over 175 years ago in this amazing place.

The third annual *Fantastic Fandango* will be part of The Friends fundraising efforts. It will be held in a unique Mexican hacienda-style home in Orinda's Sleepy Hollow neighborhood on Saturday, August 27, beginning at 6 p.m. An evening of fun and surprises, there will be tasty food and lots of music and dancing - an event worthy of the famous fandangos of Joaquin Moraga's day.

Help Isabella and the Friends realize their dream. Visit [www.moragaadobe.org](http://www.moragaadobe.org), purchase tickets, donate and learn more about the historical Joaquin Moraga Adobe in Orinda.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Isabella Chow raised \$360 for the Moraga Adobe by selling eggs from her chickens and doing odd jobs.