

## The Party Was at Amoroma!

Submitted by Lesley Eckstein



littledog2 in front of the Rheem Theater

Photo provided

For the first time in decades, Moraga enjoyed its own New Year's Eve celebration, hosted by Ristorante Amoroma and the Rheem Theater. Long time Moraga resident and sports announcer Dick Callahan presided as emcee of the event, which featured littledog2, a rock band comprised entirely of Moraga parents – Eric Eckstein (drums), Dean Myatt (bass), Ric Hattabaugh (guitar), Dorothy Watson (keyboards) and Jane Daniel (vocals). In addition,

there were performances by stand-up comedian Jim Perry and folk duo Kelly Callahan and Eric Black. Local Moraga residents (including neighbors from Orinda, Lafayette and Walnut Creek) shared in spirited dancing, great food and beverages and a big screen countdown to midnight.

This first time event underscored a growing trend of Moraga-centric events featuring local talent in collaboration with local businesses and organizations. Mem-

bers of the Town Council, including former Mayor Mike Metcalf, mingled with Moraga Park Foundation members, including former Board Presidents Judy Dinkle and Howard Harpham, as well as residents of all ages, backgrounds and interests. Amoroma co-owner Hafiz Hadari stated his hope to continue to promote community events like this as well as private functions in the restaurant and theater, "It was a great success and I hope to make it an annual event."