

'Shrek The Musical Jr.' at OIS

Submitted by Jeanette Lipp



Orinda Intermediate School's Shrek Duloc cast and crew, taken on the first day of rehearsals. Photo provided

Orinda Intermediate School's spring musical "Shrek The Musical Jr." opens April 30 at the Bulldog Theater. It's a "big bright beautiful world" in this hilarious stage spectacle based on the Oscar-winning DreamWorks Animation smash hit film. This show features a host of over-the-top characters in a dazzling adventure story.

In a faraway kingdom, the green ogre Shrek finds his swamp invaded

by banished fairytale misfits, run-aways who've been cast off by Lord Farquaad, a tiny terror with big ambitions. When Shrek sets off with a wise-cracking donkey to confront Farquaad, he's handed a task – if he rescues feisty Princess Fiona from the Dragon-guarded tower, his swamp will be returned to him. But, a fairy tale wouldn't be complete without unexpected twists and turns along the way. Part romance and part twisted

fairy tale, "Shrek Jr." is an irreverently fun show for the whole family.

The production is directed and produced by Bay Area Children's Theatre (BACT) as part of their Education Program. Rachel Robinson serves as director with Annie Clark as music director and choreographer. In reference to the production, Robinson notes, "Hidden underneath 'Shrek: The Musical's' fluffy exterior, is a surprisingly compelling story about what it means to defy convention and discover your true self. It is my hope that every student in the cast of 'Shrek' has come to feel empowered to express his or her own unique flair. I have always believed that actors are some of the bravest people in the world. It takes true fearlessness to get up on stage in front of a room full of people and just throw yourself into a role. It is exciting, inspiring, and a true reminder that what makes us special really does make us strong."

There are two casts, which include approximately 60 OIS students along with an additional 14 OIS students serving on tech crew. Performances will run April 30 to May 2 at the OIS Bulldog Theater. The performance lasts a total of 90 minutes, including one intermission. For show time information and to purchase tickets, visit www.showtix4u.com. Tickets are also available at OIS Theater one half hour prior to show times.

JM ECO Gears Up for Earth Week April 16-22

By Hillary Hoppock



Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School art teacher Moose Wesler worked with students, teachers, parents and community members to complete the "Continents of the World" mural. Photo provided

The Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School Environmental Club led a successful campaign to help save 1,352 sea turtles this fall and sponsored a "Continents of the World" ecology mural on the JM science building. This spring the JM ECO club will cap off the school year with campus-wide Earth Week events April 16-22, based on an "AWAREness" theme.

With every dollar raised saving a baby sea turtle, ECO club students organized a homeroom competition that netted \$1,352 and placed JM as the top school across the country participating in the contest to raise funds for the SEE Turtle organization. All species of sea turtles targeted for this support are listed as critical or endangered.

In 2014, the ECO club approached JM art teacher Moose Wesler about an environmentally themed mural for the school's science building. Wesler worked with the ECO club to develop the concept of the world's continents shaped by renderings of animals specific to each continent. She used ECO students'

animal drawings to design the mural, and with help from students, teachers, parents and community members completed the "Continents of the World" mural in December. Wesler previously used student art to create and complete both the Ancient Egypt mural on the sixth grade Core building in 2011 and the Carol Robak Teacher Memorial mural on the JM gymnasium in 2012.

To fund the mural, JM ECO used accumulated savings from the school-wide food waste diversion program developed four years ago by JM science teacher Kim Lockett. The school's three waste sorting stations operate daily at brunch and lunch to successfully divert 300 pounds of food per week. Along with other Bay Area schools and restaurants, JM's food waste goes to the Emeryville Waste Water Treatment Plant to be converted through a digestive process to energy to power the plant fully.

For the annual JM Earth Week, ECO club students plan, prepare and manage all-school lunchtime activities for a week to encourage the stu-

dent body to reflect and take action on environmental challenges. This year's "AWARE" theme involves an (A) awareness scavenger hunt; (W) waste sites mapping and geotagging on a "Litterati" website (litterati.org); (A) art to create mini-turtles from walnuts and fabric; (R) recycle and reuse T-shirts to make new flags for the JM garden; and an (E) earth pledge on the school's blacktop outside the gym for students to commit to earth-healthy practices in their daily lives. Students who participate every day in Earth Week events receive an earth-themed snow cone.

JM ECO is in its sixth year and continues to involve students, staff and the community in events and activities to raise consciousness and offer opportunities for earth "wise" action. As noted in the Jane Goodall quote in the upper right corner of JM's newest mural: "You cannot get through a single day without having an impact on the world around you. What you do makes a difference and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make."

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In Memory

Margaret de Vries

(Alexanderina Margaret Milne)

July 22, 1929 – March 26, 2015



Margaret was an active member of the Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church where she served on several committees over the years. The ones most dear to her heart were the Stephen's Ministry where she came alongside people to love, listen, pray and support them during their times of need and the Women's Bible Study where she was a long time leader on

Tuesday mornings. Margaret was also a former Bible Study Fellowship (BSF) leader in the Bay Area and former member of Walnut Creek Presbyterian Church.

Margaret has been known for the beautiful hats she would wear on Sunday mornings and for her great sense of humor. She was also known for the lovely luncheons and fun gatherings she would host at her home. She was quite proud of the abundant and colorful flowers that she nurtured around her home.

Young Margaret was very involved in the Salvation Army in Detroit, Mich., and attributed her strong faith from those early roots. Although aspiring to be a nurse, Margaret left her life in Detroit when she became engaged to John J. de Vries whom she met at Hope Reformed Church while visiting her father in Los Angeles.

During her years in Los Angeles, Margaret volunteered in her children's schools and the family church as well as at Harbor General Hospital in San Pedro.

She was preceded in death by her daughter, Linda Keil on July 6, 1991 and most recently by her husband, John J. de Vries Sr. on Aug. 10, 2014, whom she married on Feb. 11, 1949. She and John had been residents of Moraga since 1971.

Margaret's greatest joy was her family. She was a dedicated mother to her daughter, Heather Alcantar and to her son, John de Vries Jr. as well as to her sons-in-law, Tim Alcantar and Timothy Keil and her daughter-in-law, Sonia de Vries, and honorary daughter-in-law, Laura Keil. She was a jubilant and loving grandmother to Katherine Keil, Aimee Keil Hauptman and husband Joe, Jordan Alcantar, Eric Alcantar, Michelle de Vries and Jonathan de Vries.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Margaret's honor to:
Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church
10 Moraga Valley Lane, Moraga, CA 94556 or
Salvation Army
2794 Garden Street, Oakland, CA 94601

Community Service

Donation from "Mountain Jack" Ingram Benefits East Bay Hikers and Their Dogs

Submitted by Carolyn Jones

Hikers, joggers, bicyclists and even dogs now have a place to rest and enjoy fresh drinking water on a popular Contra Costa County trail, thanks to a donation from an avid outdoorsman and former Lafayette resident who died in 2007.

John "Mountain Jack" Ingram, who passed away in December 2007 at age 81, left \$50,000 to the Regional Parks Foundation as a tribute to his parents, Stuart and Venita Ingram, who were longtime Lafayette residents.

In honor of Ingram and his parents, the Regional Parks Foundation and East Bay Regional Park District dedicated a bench under a shady tree, a water fountain for humans and dogs, and a plaque embedded in a rock at the Olympic Boulevard Staging Area of the Lafayette-Moraga Regional Trail near downtown Lafayette.

The dedication, which drew park officials as well as Ingram family and friends from throughout the East Bay and as far away as Oregon, occurred March 13 at the

Olympic staging area, which is the northern end of the picturesque, winding 7.6-mile paved trail.

Ingram grew up in Lafayette and was in one of the first classes to graduate from Acalanes High School. He served in the Navy on two aircraft carriers in the South Pacific, and worked for many years for Auto Week magazine.

He loved skiing and hiking, leading hundreds on mountain adventures in the East Bay and Sierra Nevada. Among his many contributions to Northern California out-

door life, he helped establish the Bay Area Ridge Trail, which so far includes more than 350 miles of stunning vistas and challenging terrain across the Bay Area's hilltops.

For more information about the Bay Area Ridge Trail, go to: <http://www.ridgetrail.org/>. To learn more about the Lafayette-Moraga Trail, visit: http://www.ebparks.org/parks/trails/lafayette_moraga.

The East Bay Regional Park District is a system of beautiful public parks and trails in Alameda



John Ingram Photo provided and Contra Costa counties east of San Francisco Bay, established in 1934. The system comprises 119,000 acres in 65 parks including over 1,250 miles of trails for hiking, biking, horseback riding and nature learning.

We are pleased to make space available whenever possible for some of Lamorinda's dedicated community service organizations to submit news and information about their activities. Submissions may be sent to storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com with the subject header In Service to the Community.