

But the fun is scheduled to begin long before the parade kicks off. The day will start with a pancake breakfast hosted by the Orinda Roadrunners followed by the Roadrunners Fun Run, a two or five mile effort. The five-mile course goes through Wagner Ranch into the EBMUD watershed and onto the American Discovery Trail. "The course is both scenic and flat and much of it is on EBMUD land that is closed to the public, which provides a once-a-year opportunity to see beautiful, remote areas of our wilderness neighborhood," explains John Fazel, a founding member of the Orinda Roadrunners.

Haley's 4th of July Run for a Reason, a five-mile run or two-mile family walk, will be run simultaneously. Haley's Run raises funds for the Sudden Unexplained Death in Childhood Program in honor of the passing of young Orinda resident whose parents still do not know the cause. Haley's Run will be followed by a silent auction and a host of other fun kids' activities in Community Center Park.

Anything else? There will be great music, great food, and shopping! Five different bands playing a variety of jazz tunes will be featured throughout the day, and several local restaurants and civic groups will provide the eats and drinks. Start off with a hot dog prepared by the Orinda Chamber of Commerce, wash it down with a beer at the Orinda Rotary Booth (for the over 21 crowd) or a snow cone sponsored by the Miramonte Football Team (for the younger set), and top it off with some ice cream from Loard's. In addition, over forty booths with interactive activities, arts, and crafts will be open throughout the day.

"We encourage residents from Lafayette and Moraga to join us in Orinda for the events leading up to the parade like the concert in the park and the Reach for the Stars evening on the 2nd. Then come enjoy the variety of activities before, during, and after the parade on the 4th," invites Wiley. "This will be a fun celebration for everyone who lives in the Lamorinda area, and we'll see you down the road in Moraga for the fireworks that evening."

The Celebration before the Celebration— Reach for the Stars on 7/2 in Theater Square

By Andrea A. Firth

"When Kate Wiley [of the Orinda Association] called one day and asked me if I wanted to decorate the town, I didn't think twice about it—I just said yes," explains Susan Meyer, Chair of the July 2nd Celebration in Orinda. To achieve this goal, Meyer, a petite package of boundless enthusiasm and creative energy, has created an evening of music, food, art, and wine for Lamorindans to enjoy in Orinda's Theater Square. "It will be a fun community event with something for everyone," adds Meyer. "We'll celebrate this wonderful community and commemorate the 25th anniversary of the parade."

The evening will start around 6:00 pm with music by the Bob Claire Orchestra including Orinda resident and keyboardist Ron Tague. A Mini Car show sponsored by Orinda Motors will provide residents with the chance to view some classic cars up close. And, attendees won't go hungry or thirsty. A wine tasting will feature wines from the Lamborn Family Vineyards (located atop Howell Mountain in Napa Valley), Parkmon Vineyards (situated high atop Laird Drive in Moraga), and the Lamorinda Winegrowers Association (with locations throughout Lamorinda). The tasting will include a commemorative wine glass etched with the Orinda Theater logo. Plus several Theater Square restaurants will be open for dining in or out.

"Everyone has the potential to be inspired," states Meyer, "They just have to reach for it," she adds. Thus, Meyer's name for the July 2nd celebration—Reach for the Stars. "Back in February I was driving in San Francisco. I saw some of the painted hearts of San Francisco, and it just clicked," she explains. To that end, Orinda's event will feature an auction of about twenty one-of-a-kind stars created by Bay Area artists. The stars which are about 12 inches around and mounted to stand about three feet off the ground are suitable as interior home décor or as garden ornaments.

Several local artists, including Theater Square Gallery owner Allison McCrady, contributed star creations. McCrady also created a painting to memorialize the July 2nd celebration.

Applying a bit of artistic license with her perspective, McCrady's work shows trees in bloom in the foreground and the Orinda hills looming in the background with the Theater marquee rising from the center. Prints of the painting suitable for framing will be on sale that evening. VIP seating and parking for the parade on Friday the 4th will also be auctioned off.

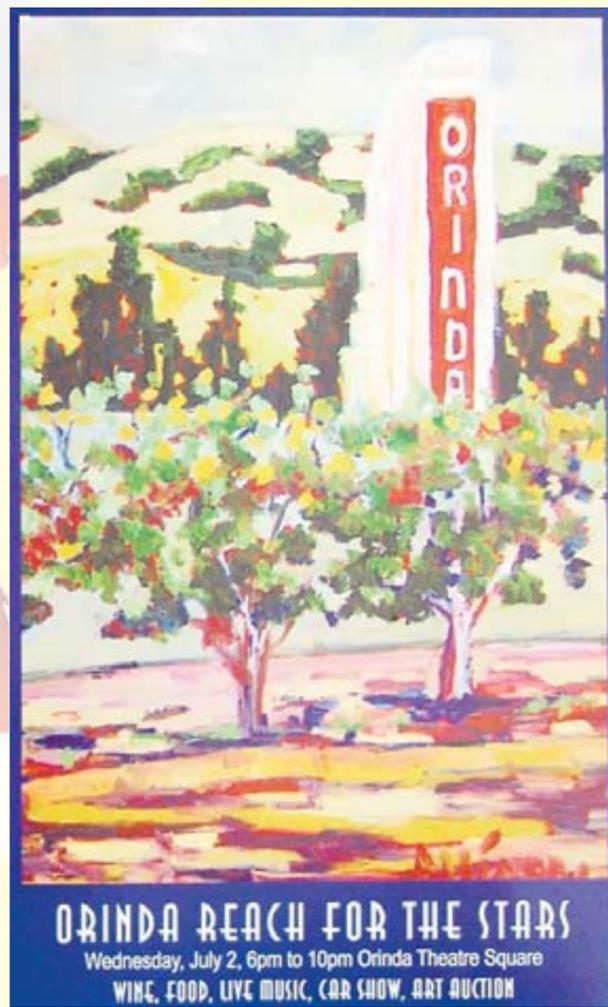
The pre-July 4th festivities will kick off with a concert by the Silver Spurs in Community Center Park on Tuesday, July 1st. The Reach for the Stars event will follow on Wednesday evening. And, volunteers are invited to come back on Thursday, July 3rd to join Susan and friends in decorating the Community Center, Library Plaza, and park. (Meet at 4:00 pm at the Volunteer Center next to Caffe Teatro.)

Parade Route



Getting Ready for the 4th— Events July 1st thru 3rd

- July 1st Concert in Community Center Park
6:30-8:30 pm Country Western music by the Silver Spurs
- July 2nd Reach for the Stars in Orinda's Theater Square
6:00-10:00 pm Music, Food, Art & Wine Festival and Classic Car Show
- July 3rd Volunteers' Decorating Party
4:00-6:00 pm Community Center Park and the Library Plaza



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