



Friends of the Joaquin Moraga Adobe Newsletter

www.MoragaAdobe.org

December 2017



FJMA president Kent Long and Bobbie Landers at Orinda's July 4th parade

FJMA Fundraising Surpasses \$135,000

Thanks to ongoing support from generous individuals, local organizations, and our annual Fandango fundraisers, the Friends of the Joaquin Moraga Adobe has raised over \$135,000 so far towards the purchase and restoration of the Adobe. We are excited to have secured over a fourth of the funds needed to reach the \$500,000 required to fulfill our agreement with J&J Ranch. However, to support the Adobe well into the future, our overall fundraising goal is \$1,000,000. We anticipate rolling out a new Capital Campaign in 2018 to make significant progress towards this goal.

FJMA is very grateful to all our donors, in particular the **Orinda Community Foundation**, who has awarded us significant grants for the past four years.

Moraga Adobe Update

As the oldest surviving home in Contra Costa County, the historic 1841 Moraga Adobe is well deserving of major restoration, and this is now starting to become a reality. The Adobe restoration plan, prepared by preservation architects Garavaglia Architecture in collaboration with FJMA, was approved by the City of Orinda in February 2017. In November, the Planning Commission recommended re-zoning the Adobe parcel to Parks & Recreation use to allow a museum.

Under this plan, the Adobe will be restored to its 1848 configuration, which includes the original two adobe rooms (from 1841) and three smaller "bedrooms" added in 1848. The restoration plan also encompasses an outdoor activity area, a separate bathroom building, and parking.



Preservation architects with J&J partner John French inside Adobe



Architect Mike Garavaglia examines original 1841 adobe bricks

During extensive inspections by Garavaglia in late 2016, portions of the Adobe walls from the 1848 additions were discovered. This was exciting, because it was unknown if any remnants of those walls still existed.

Adobe owners J&J Ranch LLC are responsible for the restoration in conjunction with their development of the surrounding properties. Under our 2013 agreement, FJMA will raise and contribute one half the estimated cost of the restoration. After this obligation is met (\$500,000) FJMA will take ownership of the restored Adobe with its surrounding 2+ acres. FJMA will then operate the Adobe as a museum and history learning center open to the public, focusing on the oft-forgotten "Rancho" period of 19th century California and the sometimes poignant stories of the early settler families like the Moragas.

The J&J Ranch project which surrounds the Adobe is waiting for final state approval. Approval of the project is expected in early 2018, and will trigger the start of a 3-year purchase window for FJMA to acquire the Adobe.



The Old Yellow House

Fourth Annual Fandango a Big Success

A Festive Fundraiser at the Old Yellow House

The historic "Old Yellow House" in Orinda provided the perfect setting for FJMA's 4th annual Fandango fundraiser on August 26th. Host James Phillip Wright gave personal tours of his unique home, which was built in 1890 as housing for the California & Nevada Railroad. (Note that the Moraga Adobe had already been in Orinda almost 50 years!) The house is a well-known landmark on Orinda's busy Moraga Way, and is only open to the public on special occasions.

This wonderful home was a great venue for this year's Adobe fundraiser. Folks visiting this renovated house and grounds got to see and appreciate the amazing transformation that James has made by introducing the latest green-energy technology and sustainable building methods, yet keeping the historical aspects and feel of the house intact.

The backyard was transformed into a stage with a rancho theme, with straw bales for seating. The audience was treated to the authentic historical Hispanic California music of *Los Arribeños de San Francisco*. FJMA board member and Moraga family direct descendant Lance Beeson is a member of this festive band.



Old Newspapers found during the renovation now adorn the Old Yellow House's stairwell walls



Lance Beeson with Los Arribeños de San Francisco

After a delicious BBQ dinner, a highlight of the evening was a lively and amusing historical performance by a group of Orinda Thespians. Writer and director Abbe Anderson's tale of the Moraga Adobe was told in song and dance. This Fandango performance can be viewed on YouTube (see www.MoragaAdobe.org for a link).

With strong ticket sales, a profitable silent auction and generous sponsors, this year's Fandango made over \$13,000 towards the Adobe. Thank you to everyone who supported this successful event!



Isabela Chow, Hard at Work for the Adobe

Our Youngest Supporter's Donations Exceed \$1,000!



Isabela Chow

Isabela Chow may only be eleven years old, but she has already been one of FJMA's most consistent and energetic donors for several years! After learning the story of the Adobe in Marta Wallace's third grade class at Del Rey Elementary school in Orinda, Isabela was inspired to save it. She worked all that summer vacation selling eggs and necklaces to earn money for the Adobe. At the end of the summer, she presented her hard earned donation of several hundred dollars at our 2015 Fandango - all before starting fourth grade!

Now a 6th grader at OIS middle school, Isabela's determination to help the Adobe has grown even stronger. She has expanded her egg enterprise to include pet sitting in her neighborhood. Along with cats and dogs, she has cared for a variety of animals including rabbits and even goats. During the summer she had to get up at 5:30AM to take care of her pet sitting duties before heading to Cal Shakes camp to pursue her passion for performing and singing. (She is thrilled to have seen *Hamilton* three times!)

Isabela was a featured performer at this year's Fandango. There wasn't a lot of time to practice, she explained, but that didn't seem to bother her, and the performance went off without a hitch. And now, Mrs. Wallace at Del Rey is showing a video of the event with Isabela (available on YouTube) to her current class of 3rd graders when teaching local history.

Each of the past three years, Isabela has donated every penny she has earned toward the purchase and restoration of the Adobe. Her presentation at this year's Fandango brought her total contributions to **over \$1000!**

When asked why she is working so hard for this cause, Isabel replies, "Because there is magic inside the Adobe." Her infectious enthusiasm has certainly had a magical effect on us all!

[Editor's Note: Ivy Drive area residents interested in Isabela's pet services can contact her through her dad, Dennis Chow, on NextDoor.]



Isabela on-stage at the 2017 Fandango

Thank You!

2016 & 2017 Donors

Apple
 Jeff and Connie Boero
 Holly & Buddy Burke
 Isabela Chow
 Margaret Fuerst
 Carlin Fuerst
 Dr. Carlos Ramirez & Carla Furtado
 Darlene Gee
 Andrew Goett
 George & Judith Hammon
 Harvey Imports
 Nancy Linfoot Hubert
 Bobbie Landers
 Carl Landers
 Kent & Teresa Long
 Ron Louis
 David Nelson
 The Olsen Team, Ben & Sue Olsen
 Orinda Community Foundation
 PG&E Corporation Foundation
 Graciela Reynoso
 Kellie Roberts
 Frederick O. Smith
 Tarbell Family Foundation
 Bob and Maryett Thompson
 William T. White III
 James Phillip Wright
 Danuda Zaroda

You can help! Be a part of our 2018 **Capital Campaign Fundraising Committee.**

Contact Bobbie Landers at 925 254-8260 or bobielanders@yahoo.com for information.

Donations always welcome! If you'd like to donate to help the Moraga Adobe, checks can be made out to "FJMA" and mailed to P.O. Box 872 Orinda, CA 94563, or donations can be made online at **www.MoragaAdobe.org**.

Newsletter Editor: Teresa Long, TeresaLong@MoragaAdobe.org
 A special thanks to Andrew Goett of Pacific Printing for printing this publication



JOAQUIN
MORAGA
A D O B E

P.O. Box 872
Orinda, CA 94563

Stamp

Addressee



**Moraga Adobe
News**



¡Viva El Adobe!



Moraga Adobe Circa 1935

Friends of the Joaquin Moraga Adobe

www.MoragaAdobe.org
P.O. Box 872
Orinda, CA 94563
comments@MoragaAdobe.org

Board of Directors

President - Kent Long
Vice President - SB Master
Secretary - Jeff Boero
Treasurer - Bob Thompson
At Large: Lance Beeson, Tania DeGroot,
Peggy Fuerst & Ron Louis

*FJMA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization
Tax #80-0579769*