



Joaquin Moraga Adobe Newsletter

Adobe
1941 Remodel

www.MoragaAdobe.org

December 2019

Adobe Project Update

The Friends of the Joaquin Moraga Adobe's mission to restore the Adobe into a History and Learning Center dedicated to the preservation and interpretation of early California life has made significant progress this past year.

In September, FJMA made an annual payment of \$50,000 to the developers as part of the purchase agreement to buy the Adobe. With help from generous individuals and community groups like the **Moraga Historical Society** and the **Orinda Community Foundation**, FJMA has now raised almost half of the \$500K that is required to purchase the Adobe. The final payment is due on September 18, 2021. While our overall fundraising goal is 1 million dollars which includes an endowment fund to operate the facility, we are focused on the September 2021 milestone deadline to secure the building.



Moraga Adobe—Current Condition



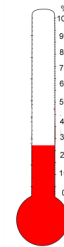
J&J Ranch Property

Project developers J&J Ranch, continue to create infrastructure including new roads, sewer, and utilities for the home sites around the Adobe property. J&J Ranch have sold over half of the 13 lots that make up the development. Plans for individual houses have already started to go through the Orinda planning process. Major construction on the Adobe won't begin until after FJMA's purchase is complete. All Adobe restoration costs are the responsibility of J&J Ranch.

Using architecture plans and digital files from J&J Ranch, FJMA volunteers were able to create 3D models of the Adobe showing all its configurations from the original 2 room home in 1841, to its 1848 five room version, to the remodel done in 1941. Some of these 3D models are currently on display at the **Orinda Historical Society**. The Adobe will be restored back to its 1848 configuration. A special thanks to **Craig Silveria** and FJMA board member **James Phillip Wright** for working on the 3D project which included a 3D video that shows the transformation of the Adobe over the years.

FJMA Goal

\$1 Million



← \$500k by
Sept. 2021

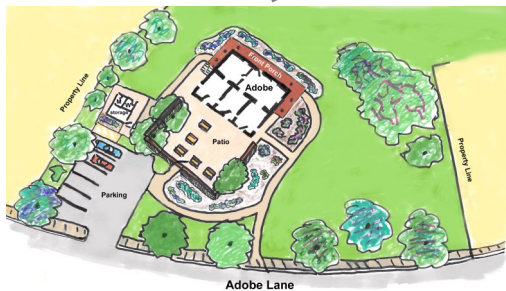
Check out our latest's video
at www.MoragaAdobe.org



Moraga Adobe
A Journey into the Past
and a Plan for the Future

New

Paver Fundraiser Campaign!



As part of our overall fundraising campaign, we are introducing a community funded paver project on the Adobe grounds. Our landscaping plan includes native plants, historical signage, and a permanent installation of commemorative pavers.

Pavers will be etched with a personal message of the donor's choosing, and are \$250 each. All proceeds go towards the purchase and restoration of the Adobe. They are a great way to be part of history, honor someone, or a great gift for that hard-to-buy-for person. Buy one or more! Order online at www.MoragaAdobe.org.

The Smiths
Joe, Mary, Sue & Bob
Viva el Adobe!

Tom R. Smith
Class of 2021
Follow your Passion!

In Memory of
John Doe
1930-2018

Remembering
SKIPPY
Best Pet Ever

Friends of the Joaquin Moraga Adobe, PO Box 872 Orinda, CA 94563

6th Annual Fandango at Orinda's Art & Garden Center!



Los Arribeños de San Francisco, OIS Choir & Christina Holling

The Friends hosted their sixth annual fundraiser at Orinda's new Art & Garden Center on August 24th. Like last year, traditional Hispanic culture, music and dancing were a highlight of the evening. The band **Los Arribeños de San Francisco** teamed up with local **Orinda Intermediate School** students to perform songs together and demonstrate many traditional Hispanic dances. These students are part of the OIS Choir taught by music teacher **Christina Holling**; they were amazing, having learned the songs and dances after only a few short lessons.



For the cultural portion of the evening, **Sal Captain** of Captain Vineyards in Moraga spoke about the history of wine growing in the Moraga Valley while Bernal family descendant **Greg Smestad**, author of the National Parks Services deAnza Trail Guide, talked about life in the Rancho days.



Guests were treated to a delicious dinner by local Chef **Charlie Vollmar** and then many joined the OIS students for some lively dancing. OIS student **Isabela Chow** for the fifth straight year donated all her earnings from selling eggs and pet sitting over the past year to the Moraga Adobe.



A special thanks to FJMA's Fandango committee, **Buddy & Holly Burke**, **Bobbie Landers**, **Lance Beeson**, **Marilyn Merlino**, **Teresa Long**, and FJMA board member **Tania DeGroot** who did an amazing job chairing this event.

2019 Community Events



Kent Long & Jeff Boero

A focus of 2019 for the Friends of the Joaquin Moraga Adobe was community outreach to let folks know what is planned for the Adobe. FJMA participated in many events such as Wagner Ranch Nature Area's **Wild Life Festival** in April, **Orinda's 4th of July** celebration, **Moraga's Pear Festival** and **Orinda's Olive Festival** in the Fall. If you know of an event or a group that would be interested in finding out more about the Adobe, please contact us at events@MoragaAdobe.org.

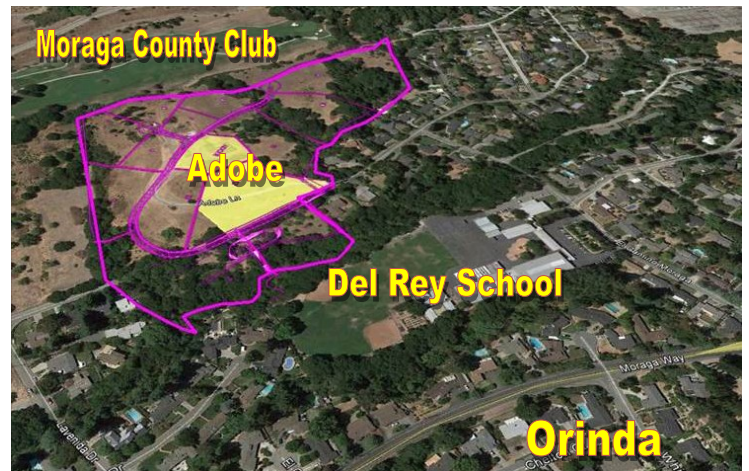
Where is the Adobe Property?

A basic but frequently asked question about the Adobe, according to FJMA President **Kent Long**, is where exactly is the Adobe located?

The Adobe sits in its original location on a 20 acre property near Moraga Way in the south side of the city of Orinda above Del Rey School. The uphill side of the property borders the town of Moraga, specifically the Moraga Country Club golf course.

The property was purchased by J&J Ranch in 2008 and is subdivided into 13 lots with the Adobe on a 2+ acre parcel of land that the FMJA is raising funds to purchase.

In 1841, the Adobe was built by the Moraga family on 13,000 acres of land that now encompasses Moraga, parts of Orinda and Lafayette.



Pink = J&J Ranch Development, Yellow = Adobe Property

Thank You!

Recent Donors

David Anderson
 Anonymous
 Margaret Beck & Michael Blume
 Lance Beeson & Marilyn Merlino
 Jeff and Connie Boero
 Holly & Buddy Burke
 Isabela Chow
 Silvakumar Dandamudi
 Tania DeGroot
 East Bay Community Foundation
 Katie Easterbrook
 Epicurean Exchange
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 William Fuerst
 Darlene Gee
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 Elizabeth Kelker
 Lester & Bonnie Krames
 Bobbie Landers
 Kent & Teresa Long
 John Minney
 Moraga Historical Society
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 PG&E Corporation Foundation
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 Heather Pehanick
 Doreen & Tony Rau
 Betsy Sihner
 Dave Trotter
 Tradeline Inc.
 Theodore Urban
 Charles Vollmar
 Joy Waite
 Wells Fargo Community Support
 Steve Westfall
 William T. White III
 Ingrid Wood



Kent Long, President An Orinda native, Kent served for many years as Archivist for the Orinda Historical Society before becoming president of the Friends of the Joaquin Moraga Adobe in 2009. Growing up in Orinda, Kent heard many stories about the Adobe and it piqued his curiosity. While Kent's expertise is in software development, he has always had a passion for history, especially local history.

Tania DeGroot, Vice President A long time Orinda resident, Tania is a successful realtor in the Lamorinda area. She has been a board member of FJMA for many years, and has recently taken on the role of Vice President. She has been the chair of our Fandango Committee for the last two years. Tania is currently serving on the Orinda's Historic Landmark Commission.



Jeff Boero, Secretary A founding member of FJMA, Jeff has been FJMA's Secretary since the beginning. Jeff has recently retired and has been instrumental in organizing FJMA's participation in events like the Orinda's 4th of July celebration. Jeff grew up in Orinda; his family having moved there in 1959.

Bob Thompson, Treasurer Bob joined FJMA's board and has served as its Treasurer since 2016. A resident of Orinda for 25 years, Bob recently moved to Walnut Creek but continues to serve as the board Treasurer for both the Orinda Historical Society and Orinda Senior Village.



At Large Board Members

Lance Beeson A direct descendant of the Moraga family who built the Adobe in the 1840s, Lance is a talented musician with an extensive knowledge of early Hispanic California history & culture. Lance is active in *Los Californianos*, an genealogical organization with ties to early California settlers. He is leader of *Los Arribeños de San Francisco*, a band that has been the featured act in many of our Fandangos.



SB Master A resident of Berkeley and Orinda, SB served for many years as a member of the Orinda Landmarks Committee. She joined FJMA when it started in 2009 and served as our first VP. SB is the founder and CEO of her own naming and branding firm.



James Phillip Wright An accomplished architect, James is the owner of the historic 1890 "Old Yellow House" in Orinda. James developed a passion for local history when he took on the monumental task of re-building his 19th century railroad bunkhouse using the latest green energy technology. He is currently working on the historic 1928 Storybook house in Orinda.

Ron Louis A longtime Moraga resident and FJMA board member, Ron is a great resource on Moraga history as he is a former President of the Moraga Historical Society.



Newsletter Editor: Teresa Long, TeresaLong@MoragaAdobe.org
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FRIENDS OF THE



JOAQUIN
MORAGA
A D O B E

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Moraga Adobe
News

¡Viva El Adobe!



Moraga Adobe circa 1935

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Friends of the
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Commemorative Paver

FJMA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization
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