



Arts in Season

The Arts are Ever in Season

Along the Arroyos: Who's Involved

PCAC Young Artist Awards and the 2008 Awards Ceremony

In the arts, change is essential. So, too, the PCAC board believes that change is valuable in the support we give to artists.

This year, PCAC changed the "Young Artist Achievement Awards" to the "YEA! Awards," the "Youth Excellence in Arts Awards." The new awards are still open to 14-20 year-old artists who live in Pleasanton or who go to school here. PCAC still gives the first place prize of \$500 in each of the four categories—literary, visual arts, music, and dramatic arts— and an Awards Banquet dinner to winners.

What has changed is not only the name, but that young artists who study with private teachers in Pleasanton may apply. Another change is that the competition now requires "auditions." It also includes the expectation that winners will perform at the Annual Awards Banquet. "Even for literary winners, we cultivate performance; it nurtures the whole person, the full range of emotional responses to and with an audience," says Dave Wright, one of the judges this year and the author of the "YEA! Award Guidelines." Additionally this year, PCAC has added a second place prize of \$300 in each category. Visual artists "perform" by displaying their works and commenting upon them for the judges.

This year the auditions were led by PCAC President Rebecca Bruner at the Lynewood Methodist Church on Black Ave.

The young talent exhibited was impressive. Parents and friends made up the audience, along with the judges—who conferred with candidates after they performed—then publicly announced the winners. The actual awarding of cash prizes occurred several weeks later at the 8th Annual Awards Banquet in the Victoria Room of the Pleasanton Hotel where the winners performed—once again— for guests, friends, and relatives.

The winners:

Visual Arts:

Adrian Wong—First Place (\$500) — The Phyllis Wentworth Award
Young Ji Cha—Second Place (\$300)

Creative Writing:

Ester Shchemelinin—First Place (\$500)
Michaela Johnson Blanchard—Second Place (tie) (\$150)
Edris Bemanian—Second Place (tie)(\$150)

Dance:

Elaine Yu—First Place (\$500)
no second place winner

Music:

Stephanie Ng—First Place (\$500) — The Renee Smith Music Award
Curtis Kim—Second Place(\$300)

The comments of the judges about the winners indicate the quality of these young artist, all of whom were 17 years of age and younger this year.

About the Visual Arts First Place winner, judge, PCAC board member and art instructor, Cassie Langan, said, "Adrian Wong is a versatile artist who submitted both a traditional value study and a contemporary computer enhanced public service poster. He successfully communicated his creative inspirations through his art and conveyed his future aspirations during his interview." Of the Second Place Visual Arts winner,



Visual Arts, First Place, Adrian Wong, with judge Cassie Langan

Langan said, "Young Ji Cha is a talented, creative young lady who has developed a signature style. She creates colorful, well rendered compositions that artistically interpret the innate relationship between unlike objects which result in visually pleasing designs."

About the First Place literary winner, book author and board member Marlene Smith-Baranzini said, "Ester Shchemelinin, is fifteen and will be a junior at Foothill High this fall. The literary judges were moved by the insight, sensitivity, and inspiration of her short story "Nightingale Whispers." It captures the journey of a restless young seeker who begins to anticipate the rewards of intellectual and personal liberation as she quietly questions "truth" and comes to trust and celebrate her individuality."

Since Second Place in the Literary Category was a tie, we had two winners who split the \$300 prize: One was Edris Bemanian, a sixteen year old novelist entering his senior year at Foothill: "We were impressed by the power of his descriptive and narrative skills in his short story "One Man's Resolve," a dark, intense, and tightly structured portrayal of crime and conflict driven by family loyalty," said Smith-Baranzini.

About the poet Michaela Blanchard, who is fifteen and will be a sophomore at Foothill, Baranzini remarked, "Michaela's selections of poetry demonstrated a versatility of emotional expression that ranges from



Dance, First Place, Elaine Yu

lighthearted playfulness to studied self-reflection and the deep anguish of heartache." We learned that the three literary winners plan to use some of their prize money for books, writing supplies, and computer upgrades.

In the Dramatic Performance Category, we had one winner, a young dancer, Elaine Yu. "We delight in her graceful control of her arms and the liquid motion of her movements. Elaine seems to fulfill William Butler Yeats remark, 'I cannot tell the dancer from the dance,'" said Margene Gerton Rivara, judge and PCAC and PCAF board member.

Mary Campbell, music judge from Las Positas College, was excited by the outstanding performances of all applicants. "We have amazing young talent in this city!" she said, adding, "the First Place winner in the Music Category, pianist Stephanie Ng, was impressive in her technique, musicianship and mature interpretation of the music, and Curtis Kim, the Second Place winner, displayed amazing passion and musicality in his cello performance."



2nd Place Winner in Music, Curtis Kim



Literary Winner, First Place, Ester Shchemelinin, with judge Smith-Baranzini

The other music judge, entertainer Don Lewis, said of pianist Stephanie Ng, "She is another precious gift to this community and many thanks to her teacher, Mark Anderson, for his guidance." "Curtis Kim, the cello player," Lewis added, "has such passion for life and living in playing the cello...he makes it sing and dance! His playing is only superseded by his purpose to share his talent and passion to teach those who are willing to learn music, but are without financial resources." Curtis Kim is raising money to provide those resources.

The Awards Banquet closed with one important adult award—PCAC's yearly Art Supporter of the Year Award. This year's winner was Linda Ebright, long-time manager of the Amador Theater Box Office, twice past president of PCAC, staunch supporter of arts events, and so much more.

Andy Jorgensen, Civic Arts Manager, touted Linda's public service to the arts, and Rebecca Bruner gave Linda the book award: a copy of *Coltrane, the Story of Sound*, by Ben Ratliff (a book Linda wished to have). Another copy of this same book has been donated to the Pleasanton Library with a placard in it reading:

"This book is a gift from the Pleasanton Cultural Arts Council to the Pleasanton Library on behalf of Linda Ebright— in recognition of her service to the arts in the community. We hereby declare her "Art Supporter of the Year for 2008." Linda was delighted to receive the honor. And both Andy and Rebecca enjoyed honoring her.

The Firehouse Arts Center project is coming!

Exciting new developments mean that the Firehouse Arts Center project will soon be under construction. This exciting new public arts facility, to be built on the site of the original fire station #1 on Railroad Avenue, will include a 240-seat theater, art gallery and art classrooms.

The City of Pleasanton recently awarded a contract to O'Connor Construction Management to oversee the construction of the Firehouse Arts Center. The complexity of the project warranted securing a construction management firm to oversee the historic restoration of the original firehouse as well as the new construction portions.

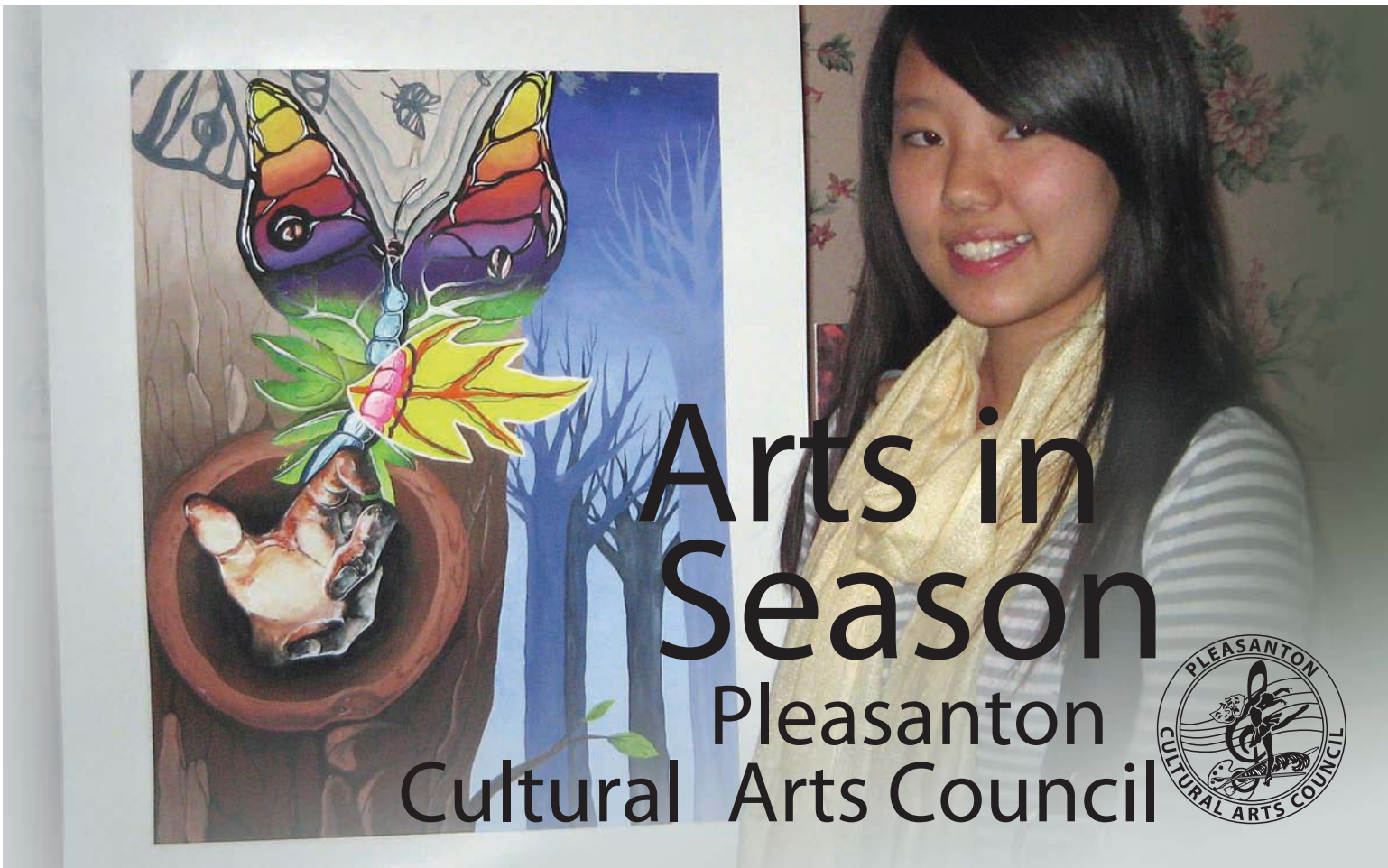
A second major step forward was the City Council's approval, on June 17th, of a purchase agreement with Alameda County to acquire the transportation corridor for \$7.5 million. This former railroad property, located between Bernal Avenue and Stanley Boulevard and adjacent to First Street is considered critical to the success of the Firehouse Arts Center project. This acquisition will ultimately provide 429 public parking spaces downtown.

President of the Pleasanton Cultural Arts Foundation (PCAF), Greg Reznick, notes "The acquisition of the transportation corridor is a great step forward for downtown Pleasanton. It will provide hundreds of public parking spaces for use by downtown visitors and patrons of the upcoming Firehouse Arts Center. By ensuring that there will be adequate parking for the many people who will be attending performances, taking classes or visiting the art gallery, the City of Pleasanton is solidifying the project's future success."

Another piece of exciting news was the receipt, by the City in early May, of construction bids for the project, which came in lower than had been estimated. The City Council is expected to award the construction bid to the selected contractor at its **Tuesday, July 15, 2008** regular meeting. Members of the community are invited to attend the council meeting to show their support for the project.

The ceremonial groundbreaking for the project, with the Mayor and Council members as well as PCAF representatives and key members of the community is scheduled to take place at the site on Railroad Avenue on **Thursday, July 17, 2008 at 3:30 pm**. Everyone is welcome to attend.

The Pleasanton Cultural Arts Foundation (PCAF) has contributed \$100,000 to the City for this project to date and expects to present another check to coincide with the awarding of the construction contract on July 15th. The foundation is closing in on its short-term goal of \$2 million by this date, through its fundraising outreach to Pleasanton residents, businesses and organizations. For more information on the Firehouse Arts Center, including buying a commemorative brick for \$150 or naming a theater seat for \$500, contact PCAF at (925) 846-1007 or www.pleasantonartsfoundation.org.



Pleasanton Cultural Arts Council
 P.O. Box 1298
 Pleasanton CA 94566

Yes, I accept your invitation to join and/or support PCAC and the Arts in Pleasanton.

Membership per year (2008-2009).....\$35.00

We would like to make a tax deductible donation of:

Silver Contributor.....\$50.00

Gold Contributor.....\$100.00

Platinum Contributor.....\$250.00

Other.....\$ _____

Mr. / Mrs. / Miss _____

Address _____

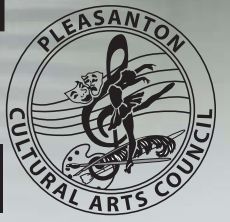
City, State, Zip _____

Phone & Email _____

Make check payable to PCAC and send to: PCAC, P.O. Box 1298, Pleasanton 94566
 For more information call Margene Rivera (925) 931-1111.

Arts in Season

Pleasanton Cultural Arts Council



Editorial Policy and Newsletter Purpose:

The purpose of this newsletter is to celebrate and advance: (1) the arts in the Pleasanton community and its environs, (2) PCAC's role in promoting and supporting the arts, (3) the role of other arts groups in so doing, and (4) the ways in which the arts enrich, nourish, and build community.

We welcome articles celebrating the accomplishment and/or programs of your arts group. We make no guarantee that such submissions will be published and reserve the right to edit articles. If you wish to promote or advertise a program, please send your "calendar items" to Gerry Hedstrom at info.pleasantonarts.org. He will post them on the PCAC web site at www.pleasantonarts.org.

All articles about celebrating the programs or accomplishments of your arts group should be sent to Dave Wright at dawright@sbcglobal.net.

The Pleasanton Cultural Arts Council is committed to the belief — that the arts nurture the spirit of those in our communities. — that the arts are an essential part of a healthy and equitable society to which those of all ages and backgrounds should have access. — that we should promote, create, and support arts institutions, experiences, facilities, and opportunities for the enrichment of those in Pleasanton and in the Tri-Valley.

PCAC Board Members

President: Margene Rivera
 Vice President: Kent Moore
 Secretary: Diane Wardin
 Treasurer: Jack Harrington
 Mark Anderson
 Marie Boss
 Rebecca Bruner
 Gerry Hedstrom
 Claudia Hess
 Rudy Johnson
 Keith Kang
 Cassie Lang
 Hermina Sarkis-Kelly
 Charlotte Severin
 Marlene Smith-Baranzini
 Dave Wright

Newsletter:
 Graphic Design: Lew Reed
 Editor: Dave Wright
 Webmaster: Robin Sigmann

Upstream: What's Upcoming in the Arts

All July until Sat. Aug. 2, Glass Fantastic, a celebration exhibit of art glass at Worthington Gallery West, 739 Main St., Pleasanton. This show highlights the history & techniques of art glass, paperweights, 2-D & 3-D work by Glass Artists: Michael Nourot, Union St. Glass, Rick Satava, Jane Ti vol, Lionel Chapital and more. Many of these museum quality works will be for sale.
 Info: 925-485-1183;
www.worthingtongallerywest.com
 Hours: Tues-Sat. 11-6 PM, except Fri. noon-8PM

Sat. & Sun. July 5 & 6, 12 & 13, evenings at 7:30 PM
 Shakespeare's Pericles by S.F. Shakespeare Festival at Amador Valley Community Park, corner of Santa Rita and Black Ave, Pleasanton. A free Civic Arts Presents performance.

Fri. July 4 Celebration, including music by the Pleasanton Community Concert Band, from 1-2:30 PM. Lion's Wayside Park, First and Neal Streets, Pleasanton, Ca.

Thurs, Fri., Sat. July 10, 11, 12 & July 24 & 26 and Aug. 1 at 7:30 PM
 The Complete Works of Wilm Shksp (abridged) at Concannon Vineyard, Tesla Rd., Livermore. Cost: July 10 preview: \$20; July 11 includes buffet, \$50/\$45; other nights \$30/\$25.
 Info: 925-443-2273 or www.ShakespearesAssociates.org

Sat. & Sun. July 12 & 13 from 11 AM to 4 PM, Art Under the Oaks at Alden Lane Nursery, 981 Alden Lane, Livermore. Sponsored by the Livermore Art Association, featuring over 50 artists watercolors, photos, jewelry, pottery oils, acrylics and more. All art for sale. Also, featuring live music, with the Pleasanton Community Concert Band on Sunday afternoon. A free event.

Sat. July 12 at 8 PM, The Doors Legacy Band at the Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Rd., Pleasanton. Hear the totally authentic sound and uncanny accuracy in content, performance, energy and passion to "The Doors" themselves. Find yourself

translocated in time and space to a little club in L.A. called the "Whiskey A Go Go" in 1967. Tickets: \$18. Info: 925-931-3444 or www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us/community/arts/civic-arts.html

Thurs., Fri. Sat., July 17, 18, 19, & Fri. July 25, Sun. July 27 & Thurs. July 31; also Sat. Aug 2: Shakespeare's Twelfth Night at 7: 30 PM in Concannon Vineyard, Tesla Rd, Livermore, presented by Shakespeares Associates. Cost: July 17 preview \$20; July 18 gala includes buffet \$50/\$45; other nights \$30/25.
 Info: 925-443-2273 or www.ShakespearesAssociates.org

Thurs. July 17, 7 PM, World War II Stories and Recollections, an Ed Kinney Lecture Series event at Lynnewood Methodist Church, 4444 Black Ave., Pleasanton. Presented by local World War II veterans. Cost: \$10 donation, \$5 for Museum members. Reservations are recommended.
 Call 925-462-2766.
 Info: www.museumonmain.org

Fridays and Saturdays, July 18-Aug 3 at 8 PM, and Sun. at 2 PM, musical—Beauty and the Beast in the Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore.
 Tickets and information: www.PleasantonPlayhouse.com

Sun. Aug. 10, from 12 noon to 4 PM, Ice Cream Social, includes music by the Pleasanton Community Concert Band. At Ravenswood, 2647 Arroyo Rd., Livermore. Free entry.
 Info: 925-443-0238

Thurs. Aug. 21 at 7 PM, Film Making Today and Its Impact on Independent Films, presented by Joe and Wendy Madden, an Ed Kinney Lecture Series presentation at Lynnewood Methodist Church, 4444 Black Ave., Pleasanton. Cost: \$10; \$5 for Museum members. Reservations are recommended.
 For reservations, call 925-462-2766.
 Information: www.museumonmain.org

Sat., Sept. 13, Morning Band Concert. The Pleasanton Community Concert Band will play from 9 AM to Noon at the Farmers Market, 30 Angela St., Pleasanton. Free. Info: 925-846-5897 or www.pleasantonband.org

Sept. 15, 22, 29 Audition dates—by appointment for Valley Concert Choral participation. This upcoming year will be the 45th for the Choral. Interested singers please call Pam Grove at 462-4205 to schedule. The Choral seeks singers with sight reading experience and who enjoy singing a wide variety of music.

Thurs. Sept. 18 at 7 PM, an event of the Ed Kinney Lecture Series, I Was a TV Horror Show Host, presented by John Stanley at the Museum on Main, 603 Main St., Pleasanton. Cost: \$10 donation; \$5 for Museum members. Reservations are recommended: Call 925-462-2766.
 Info: www.museumonmain.org

Cowboy Boots

That summer you wear cowboy boots
 Scabby little boy knees peeking out
 over red and black western tooled leather
 Pointed boot toes perpetually kicked with backyard grit
 They made a hollow clomping sound
 as you rode the open range of the worn pink kitchen linoleum
 rounding up kool aid and bologna sandwiches
 Handed down that were too big
 your dusty bare feet wander aimlessly within
 You had so much growing to do
 One day you would wear adult shoes
 and the fit would be perfect

by Martha Meltzer
 Pleasanton Poet Laureate,
 (previously published in
Song of the San Joaquin)