

OEF revisits 'Garden of Knowledge'

Annual fund-raising event features Heino and other top artists, authors

Kimi Romming
OVN contributor

Due to popular response, the Ojai Education Foundation will host its second Annual "Garden of Knowledge" fund-raising event on Saturday, Sept. 8, at a private residence from 3:30 to 8 p.m. to benefit Ojai's public school programs. This signature event will include "The Magic of Science" presentation by Jim Bailey, the presentation of the OEF Education Hero of the Year award to Cathy Maynard, a raffle drawing for works by Ojai artists Otto Heino, Ted Gall and Nancy Whitman, a silent auction of works by other nationally known local artists, book signings by Ojai authors, performances by a world-class jazz ensemble, and cuisine based on seasonally fresh, local foods.

The "Garden of Knowledge" event tickets are \$150 per person (and include one art raffle ticket.); raffle ticket donation is \$25 or 5 for \$100 (winner need not be present).

"OEF is committed to working with the community and individuals and organizations that believe in the importance of education funding to bridge any budgetary deficiencies," Thayne Whipple, president of the OEF board explained, "our current objective is to help the OUSD deliver the highest level of science education to its students. We are excited and hopeful that the 'Garden of Knowledge' event will continue to support that objective."

OEF is a community-based, nonprofit organization that promotes excellence in public education by building community support and providing resources to our schools. Since 1993 the OEF has been pursuing its vision to "create a vibrant, rich, inspiring educational experience for the children of Ojai."

For example, during 2006 Bailey created and delivered hands on science lessons to more than 300 elementary students per week at all of Ojai's elementary schools as the district's elementary science specialist, a part-time position made possible by a grant from the Ojai Education Foundation.

As proof that Bailey's "science magic" is working, 2007 scores from the California Standards Test for Ojai's fifth grade students increased from 42 percent in 2006 to 52 percent of the students scoring proficient or advanced this year.

Local authors who will be in attendance include:

• **John Broesamle:** The author of half a dozen books on American history and higher education, he will be signing copies of "Twelve Great Clashes That Shape Modern



Submitted photo

OUSD science teacher Jim Bailey brings his "Magic of Science" presentation to the Ojai Education Foundation's raffle and auction.

America: From Geronimo to George W. Bush."

• **Carter Crocker** writes for children's television programming, and has won two Emmys and a Humanities Award for his work. His young adult novel, "The Tale of the Swamp Rat," was a Book Sense Pick and is now in paperback.

• **Susan Florence** is an internationally known author and artist whose gift books have been selling since 1987. Her recent line of books, the "Journeys Series," are short meditative reads painted with soft, loose watercolors, many reflecting the beauty and peace of Ojai.

• **Marty Fujita** is an evolutionary biologist and founding director of The Nature Conservancy's Indonesia Program. Her book, "Archipelago: the Islands of Indonesia," co-authored with Gavan Daws, celebrates the travels and discoveries of the great naturalist, Alfred Russel Wallace.

• **Gai Jones:** Founder of California Youth in Theatre and author of a new book for theater instructors and practitioners titled "Raising the Curtain," she also teaches extension classes for theater educators at two California State University campuses and directs for the Ojai Art Center Theater.

• **Rick Ridgeway:** One of the world's most foremost mountaineers and adventurers, Ridgeway became the first American to reach the summit of K2 and the first to do it without bottled oxygen. He is the author of six books, including the highly acclaimed "Seven Summits," "The Shadow of Kilimanjaro," "Below Another Sky" and, most recently, "The Big Open" about his expedition to northwest Tibet.

• **Jim Ruch:** Ojai's conservationist-rancher-poet. His book, "A Somewhat Different Nature," is filled with poetic confidences as well as a sensitive view of man's place in this world," according to a recent review in the Ojai Valley News. Images in "A Somewhat Different Nature" are from Ruch's lifetime of resource management, conservation and

involvement with the outdoor world.

• **Richard Senate:** While on an archaeological dig at one of the old Spanish missions Senate saw a ghost. This event caused him to rethink many of his beliefs and take up the paranormal from haunted

history to dead famous. He has investigated sites from Hawaii to the United Kingdom. He continues to explore the unknown and lead tours of haunted places. Senate is the author of "Ghost Stalker's Guide to Haunted California" (Mass Market Paperback) and maintains a spooky web site at ghost-stalker.com.

Noted Ojai artists who have donated to the silent auction include: Gayel Childress, Bert Collins, Christine Golden, Gretchen Greenberg, Jennifer Moses, Julia Pfeiffer, Susan Stinsmuehlen-Amend, Jean Smart, Bruce D. Tomkinson and Elizabeth White.

Sponsors of the 2007 Garden of Knowledge include Ojai Community Bank (title sponsor), Ojai Valley Community Hospital, Santa Barbara Bank & Trust, Mid-State Bank & Trust, Judi and Ron Polito, Nancy Whitman Studio, Ojai Valley Family Medical Group, and Green Lotus Events.

For more information contact the Ojai Education Foundation at ojaief.org or call 200-8396.

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Suzanne's site of festival's meeting

Gina Gutierrez
OVN contributor

The annual general meeting of Ojai Festivals, Ltd. will be held on Sept. 15 at Suzanne's Cuisine in Ojai.

A no-host lunch will begin at 12:30 p.m. with the general meeting commencing at 1 p.m.

Festival artistic director Thomas W. Morris will provide a re-cap of the 61st annual Ojai Music Festival, which built on the success of the 60th anniversary season by retaining high ticket sales, expanding national and international media attention, and improving the festival's financial stability.

In addition, Morris will give a sneak preview of the 62nd Ojai Music Festival concert lineup, scheduled for June 5 to 8, 2008, with internationally renowned conductor David Robertson as music director.

The meeting's agenda will also include welcoming new board member Jon Hogen of Glendale, Calif., and current board member Christine Drucker as the festival's incoming board president.

Lunch is \$30 per person. For more information or reservations to attend, call 646-2094. For information on the Ojai Music Festival go online at OjaiFestival.org.

The CHP will go into its maximum enforcement period this holiday weekend.

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