

COMMUNITY

PEP Swings

PEP Housing/Petaluma Ecumenical Properties will host its annual gala on Sunday, September 17, from 3 to 6 PM. Called "Swingin' in the Rose Garden", this year's event will be held at Garden Valley Ranch on Pepper Road in Petaluma.

Garden Valley Ranch is a nine-acre working ranch and home to 9,000 rosebushes cultivated for the sale of their extraordinary blossoms to the floral trade and to individuals, including the late Princess Diana and Martha Stewart.

Guests will be able to stroll through the fields of roses and experience the special "fragrance garden". They will partake of delicious gourmet food, wine and other beverages provided by Petaluma's finest purveyors. The Tom Leps Swing Band will be swingin' under a Victorian Beldere while guests dance on the spacious lawn and brick dance floor.

There will be an auction of unique experiences, fine art and more to benefit PEP Housing programs. Auctioneer Ernie Carpenter will be taking bids, and one of the following experiences could be yours.

Let Leland and Julie Fishman entertain you and 50

of your closest friends with swimming, live music, barbeque and games. All you have to do is win the bid and show up.

Win a private tour of the Star Wars Obi Wan studio, boasting the biggest collection of Star Wars paraphernalia in the world, right here in Petaluma.

Enjoy an evening river tour just for you and eight of your friends on a tugboat from Jerico Products, with cocktails, yummy hors d'oeuvres and live music.

Host a gourmet dinner cooked for you and six of your friends by Bill and Maggie Fishman. Last year it was duck and abalone. This year, another culinary surprise awaits the winning bidder.

The evening will also include raffle prizes, including a two-night stay for two at Villagio Inn and Spa, a four-diamond luxury accommodation in Yountville -- a \$1,000 value.

The best part, though, is joining together with friends who appreciate the work that PEP Housing does to provide safe and warm places to live for limited income seniors and people with disabilities. Secure your reservation, for a donation of \$40 per person, by calling 707.762.2336.

Petaluma Seeks CLG Certification

Organizations such as Heritage Homes, the Petaluma Trolley Project, and the group restoring the Silk Mill on Lakeview are delighted. Last month, the Petaluma City Council voted to apply for "Certified Local Government" status.

If approved, Petaluma will become the first city in Sonoma County to gain CLG status with the Federal Office of Historic Preservation. Only cities that are CLG-qualified are eligible for federal preservation monies. Federal preservation grants for CLG cities can be used to create an "Inventory of Historic Resources" and nominate significant historic properties and landmarks for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. CLG cities may also apply for matching funds for a portion of the restoration work done on properties listed on the National Register.

Petaluma already has several historic buildings listed on the National Register, including the Silk Mill, the Post Office on D Street, The Opera House (now Finbar Devine's and Aurora Glass Gallery) and the Petaluma Historical Library & Museum.

Occidental Arts & Ecology Center To Hold Fall Plant Sale

The Occidental Arts and Ecology Center will hold its Fall Plant Sale and Open House on Saturday, August 26, and Sunday, August 27. Sale hours are 9 AM to 5 PM and the Open House is 11 AM to 2 PM. Tours of the gardens will be given at 10 and 11 AM. Admission is free. This is an excellent opportunity to become familiar with OAEC's various programs, activities and offerings, as well as to buy organic, heirloom plants for your cool-weather garden.

One of the great -- but often underappreciated -- joys of living in Northern California is the opportunity to garden all year round, creating fall and winter gardens that are diverse, productive, beautiful and tasty. September is the prime time to put fall and winter seedlings into the

ground, since the soil is still warm.

At the OAEC Plant Sale, visitors can choose from hundreds of varieties of California Certified Organic heirloom brassicas, lettuces, salad greens, chards, leeks and herbs, as well as old-fashioned annual flowers. An impressive array of ornamental and edible perennials propagated from the OAEC collections will also be available for purchase.

In addition, the Center's grounds will be open to the public and there will be various specialized tours of Occidental Arts and Ecology Center's gardens and buildings, as well as a number of demonstration sites to provide an introduction to OAEC's programs. For further information, call 707.874.1557, extension 201.

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August 26 & 27

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