

# COMMUNITY

## Robert M. Lynch Named Sonoma Valley Muse

The Sonoma Community Center is proud to announce its selection of Robert M. Lynch, former publisher and editor of the Sonoma Index-Tribune, as the 2006 Sonoma Valley Muse. A celebration of Lynch's life and accomplishments is scheduled for Friday, July 7th, beginning at 5:30 PM at the Sonoma Community Center, 276 East Napa Street in Sonoma.

The Valley Muse series is an annual homage to the people and personalities who have made Sonoma Valley such a special place, as well as the signature benefit for the center's cultural arts programs.

This year's celebration is entitled "The Sonoma Valley Story", after Lynch's 300-page history of the Sonoma Valley published in 1997. The gala will feature exquisite food, fabulous valley wines, dancing to the big band sounds of the

Richard Olsen Orchestra, and a live auction. Cost is \$150 per person, and includes a complimentary copy of Robert M. Lynch's "The Sonoma Valley Story". After 10 PM, the Center will open to the public for dancing to Big Band and Latin Jazz. Dancing only will be \$20 per person and includes a glass of wine. Reservations are required for the dinner. Please call Community Center office at 707.938.4626, extension 1, for details.

Until his death in 2003, Robert M. Lynch remained an inveterate newsman, always interested in his next story, the state of the Sonoma Valley, and the people who live here. He balanced compassion for people with the creed of the people's "right to know", no small task in a small and close-knit community. He was a well-loved figure in town and helped forge a bridge between the old Sonoma and the new.

Lynch's family purchased the Index-Tribune in 1884. The Lynch children and grandchildren have continuously owned and operated the local paper since that time.

The celebration will have a 1940s theme, as this was the era during which Lynch bought the Sonoma Index-Tribune from his aunt and uncle and settled here with his wife Jean to raise the next newspaper generation. He was known as a steak-and-potatoes kind of man, with a particular affinity for all things chocolate, and the dinner menu will be geared toward his down-home sensibility. Requested attire is 40s-inspired barbeque chic.

A live auction will feature design furniture, fine art, and spectacular trips. A "fund a need" program and a donation giveaway will also provide opportunities to support the Center.

## Enmanji Temple To Host Barbecue, Bazaar & Obon Odori

Celebrating its 72nd Anniversary in Sebastopol, Enmanji Buddhist Temple will host its 52nd Annual Teriyaki Barbecue and Bazaar and Obon Odori in July. These events attract thousands of people to Sebastopol every year.

The community is invited to Enmanji's Teriyaki Bazaar on Sunday, July 9th. Food will include a barbecued teriyaki chicken lunch (hot or cold) for \$9 and other Japanese delicacies including a sweetened, bean filled pastry called *imagawa yaki*, sushi, kushi yaki and locally made desserts. Drive through is an option. Enter at Elphick Road between 10AM and 6PM.

Enmanji Temple members were the first in the Bay Area to feature chicken teriyaki barbecue as a way to

share their Japanese heritage with their surrounding neighbors. Fifty years ago, marinating and barbecuing chicken was almost unknown outside the Japanese community. Enmanji's event is noted as the "grandfather of Bay Area teriyaki barbecues".

Also on the schedule are a bonsai display from the Redwood Empire Bonsai Society, an extensive outdoor plant sale, an Ikebana flower arranging demonstration and sale, a Buddhist dharma talk, games for the kids, handicrafts, raffle drawing, bingo, cultural arts displays, martial arts demonstrations and taiko drumming by Sonoma County Taiko.

On Saturday, July 15th, the temple will host an Obon Odori dancing event at 7 PM. Obon Odori is similar to "Dia de La Muertos", Day of the Dead, in that it celebrates the

belief that all who have passed away will return once a year to enjoy earthly pleasures. The dances are performed in two or more concentric circles with the dance instructors in the center. Having the instructors dance on the inside circles allows the rest of the participants to watch the simple steps and follow along. Cultural dress is often worn to this annual event.

There will be dance practices for anyone interested in learning the dance steps, from Tuesday, July 11th, through Friday, July 14th, from 7 to 9 PM each evening at Enmanji Memorial Hall. These events are open to the public and free. Enmanji Buddhist Temple is located at 1200 Gravenstein Highway South in Sebastopol.



Robert M. Lynch

## All Nations Prepare For A Big Time

This year's edition of "All Nations Big Time" will take place on the 5th of August, from 10 AM to 7 PM, at Petaluma Adobe State Park. Sponsored by the California State Parks and the Petaluma State Historic Park Association, "Big Time" offers the opportunity to enjoy Native American dancers, flutists, basket weavers, artists, crafts, wearable art and jewelry, and foods when the Native American community comes together for

its eighth annual gathering. Dance groups will include Maidu Dancers at 12:30 PM, All N8tive Dancers at 2:30 PM, and Azteca Dancers at 4:40 PM. A hands-on area for children and food and drink concessions will also be available. Admission for adults and older children is \$5. Children 12 and under enter free. No dogs are allowed.

Petaluma Adobe State Park is at 3325 Adobe Road in Petaluma. Call 707.762.4871 for details.



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