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**Feature Article for the Peninsula Arts Council Diamond Awards**

**Countless Hours Recognized in Public Awards Ceremony**  
**Peninsula Arts Council hosts 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Diamond Awards- January 28, 2010**

Belmont, CA - When one mentions the people who are involved in the arts in San Mateo County, the words “countless” and “tireless” are often heard. This year at the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Diamond Awards, Julie Fellers, President of the Peninsula Arts Council, asked the 130-person audience to pause and ponder the meaning of the numbers they were about to hear in presentations to the awardees. Numbers such as 71, 46, 32,—“Are not lotto numbers or bingo numbers”, she quipped, “but represent the years that the winners have devoted to arts endeavors that benefit the entire county.”

The number 71 marks the number of years that **Gelb Music** has served music lovers in the city of Redwood City. Current owner, Kevin Jarvis, winner of the Diamond Award for Local Business Support, told the audience that when he purchased the store from his boss, Sidney Gelb, in 1972, “there were over 21 independent music stores in San Mateo County”, now, Gelb Music is one of the last independent music stores on the West Coast! Gelb Music offers over 55,000 products in-house, a Gelb Music Teaching Institute that offers musical education and instruction, and has kept music alive in our community through support of numerous events such as the Redwood City Blues Jam.

The number 46 represents the number of years **Masterworks Chorale** has been performing at the College of San Mateo. Masterworks Chorale, winner of the Diamond Award for Arts Organization, is recognized as one of Northern California’s finest choral ensembles. Each year, the Chorale, which has 90 members, presents to the community four concert sets of masterworks of sacred and secular choral literature from the Baroque period to today, often featuring the Bay Area’s finest professional instrumentalists and vocal soloists. <http://www.masterworks.org/>

The number 32 represents the number of years, **Lucy Tolmach**, winner of the Diamond Award for Special Recognition, has dedicated to the gardens at **Filoli** in Woodside. Filoli Mansion, often a Hollywood film location favorite, has been featured in movies such as “Heaven Can Wait”, “The Wedding Planner” and took center stage in the opening shot of the popular 1980’s show “Dynasty.” Filoli is also a member of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. As Director of Horticulture, Lucy’s visionary efforts to preserve the historic aspect of Filoli’s gardens have made them a prime example of “The Golden

Age of Country Gardens.” Forbes has recognized her efforts in naming Filoli one of the “Most Beautiful Gardens in America.” <http://www.filoli.org/>

Other items of note during the evening’s presentation, was the passing of the baton from **The City of Redwood City**, two time Diamond Award winner for Government Support, to the new winner, **The South San Francisco City Council**. Over 25 pieces of art grace the City of South San Francisco’s parks, businesses and roadways. Whether it is permanent artwork, loaned art, or quarterly art gallery programs, the South San Francisco City Council has long recognized the importance of art in its community. In 1994, the Council created a Cultural Arts Commission and together the two groups have worked in tandem to enhance the City’s landscape. As leaders of providing public art for its citizenry, and having an award-winning Civic Ballet program, the City of South San Francisco is well on its way to becoming a leading arts destination in San Mateo County. <http://www.ci.ssf.ca.us/index.aspx?nid=87>

This year marks the first time the Peninsula Arts Council has awarded the Ray Lorenzato Young Artist Award to its youngest winner to date. She is 10-year old artist, **Cindy Zhang from Brewer Island Elementary School**. Cindy has been doing art “her whole life.” She enjoys watercolor, oil painting and drawing and her artwork has been selected for exhibitions in the Foster City Library, the San Mateo/Foster City School District office and in the library at Brewer Island Elementary School. Cindy is also a member of the Brewer Island School Council and is taking an active role in the Make a Wish Foundation *Pocketful of Wishes Drive* that the Brewer Island Student Council is hosting along with the 5<sup>th</sup> Grade community service project. Presenting her award was the 2008 Diamond Award winner for Youth, **Taylor Mallory**. Taylor and her colleagues from the **Princeton University Katzenjammers**, were in town on Spring Break and graced the sold-out awards ceremony with special performances that enthralled the attendees. The Katzenjammers are the oldest, co-ed, collegiate *a capella* group in the nation. <http://www.katzenjammers.org>

All award winners received the Peninsula Art’s Council Diamond Award, as well as letters of commendation from the offices of **Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger**, **Congresswoman Jackie Speier**, **Congresswoman Anna Eshoo**, **CA State Senator Joseph Simitian**, **Assemblymen Jerry Hill, Leland Yee, and Ira Ruskin**. In addition, **the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors** and various cities including **Burlingame, Belmont, Redwood City, Half Moon Bay, Woodside and Foster City** also provided certificates of appreciation.

The Peninsula Arts Council (PAC) is a non-profit organization devoted to supporting, promoting and advancing the arts in San Mateo County. Funded by memberships and through proceeds from curating the Caldwell Gallery, Community Gallery and the Rotunda Gallery in the San Mateo County Government Center, Redwood City; it:

- Promotes the arts through marketing, outreach and education initiatives

- Honors artistic achievement in San Mateo County through an annual Diamond Awards event
- Provides resources to support and increase county arts education activities
- Hosts an artist's registry to help promote local artists and
- Serves as a community partner and resource.

The Council is guided by an **all-volunteer** board of directors, each of whom reside and/or work in San Mateo County. The board currently represents Art in Action, Art on the Square, Coastal Repertory Theatre, Silicon Valley Open Studios, Music at Kohl Mansion, San Carlos and Redwood City Arts Commissions, San Mateo County Convention and Visitors Bureau Film Commission, and volunteer arts advocates. It's Advisory Council represents City Arts of San Mateo, Peninsula Ballet Theatre and Filoli Center.

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Peninsula Arts Council | 10 Twin Pines Lane | Belmont, CA 94002  
Tel. (650) 591-2101 | [info@peninsulaartscouncil.org](mailto:info@peninsulaartscouncil.org)