R&B dance under the stars in Portola Valley

Tickets are still available for a rhythm-and-blues dance under the stars in Portola Valley from 8 p.m. to midnight on Saturday, Nov. 14.

The district, a fundraiser for open space acquisition, will be held at the Portola Valley Town Center at 765 Portola Road, a place where a dancer, looking skyward, will actually see stars because the town mandates low light levels.

Go to tinyurl.com/pVDance2009 to make a reservation. Tickets are $75.

Two local R&B bands are scheduled to play: Rusty Sterling & Friends with vocalist Kate Dempsey, and The Outcasts with guitarist Paul Skrabe.

Professional refreshments include complimentary wine from the Thomas Fogarty and Hare Maze vineyards, margaritas with Tequila Don Pilar from Amigo's Grill Restaurant in Ladera, and premium cheese. Dancers must be 21 or older.

The dance, sponsored by the Community Events Committee, is a fundraiser for the Portola Valley Open Space Acquisition Fund and is affiliated with the 2009 Blues and BBQ.

**Authors' luncheon**

Abilities United will hold its 18th annual Authors' Luncheon on Saturday, Nov. 14, at the Crowne Plaza Cabana Hotel, 4290 El Camino Real in Palo Alto. Authors Timothy Egan, Jane Hamilton, Yiyun Li, and children's author Amy Krouse Rosenthal will be featured.

The book salon opens at 10:30 a.m. for book sales and signings, Abilities United artists' show, and a silent auction. From noon to 2 p.m., Janice Edwards, host of "Bay Area Vista," will introduce the authors and make Abilities United presentations. Gina Rayfield of Portola Valley, the district's honorary chairwoman, has been involved with Abilities United since 1999, when her daughter, Charlotte, then 1-year-old, was referred to early intervention services as an at-risk child, due to her premature birth. Ms. Rayfield organized the group's first infant PTA.

After joining Abilities United board of directors, Ms. Rayfield ran two marathons raising a total of $35,000 for the organization. She was also part of the organization's name change committee, which ultimately changed from C.A.R. to Abilities United in 2008.

Tickets are $125. For more information, call 618-3300.

**Opera Guild fundraiser**

An afternoon of opera and Broadway music performed by the Capriccio Quartet will be held at 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 15, at the Los Altos home of Sylvia and John Vidovich.

Hors d’oeuvres, desserts and wine will be served. Proceeds will support the San Francisco Opera Guild’s music education programs. Tickets are $30 to $150. To order tickets online, enter this in a Google search: Opera Guild Peninsula.

**Pat Grillos heads benefit**

Pat Grillos of Atherton is chair-

man of the "Baubles, Bangles and Bags" benefit to be presented by the Peninsula Volunteers on Friday, Nov. 13, at the Menlo Circus Club, 190 Park Lane in Atherton. Serving as her co-chairman is Sandy Ferrando, also of Atherton. The benefit will include a champagne reception, showing of Stephen Dweck jewelry, runway and fashion show. For more information, call 326-0665, ext. 238.

Chestnut harvest time

Just in time for Thanksgiving dinner, local residents may gather chestnuts at a historic orchard on Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District land until Nov. 22.

The orchard of 119 trees is located on the Old Ranch, 22322 Skyline Boulevard in La Honda. Visitors are welcome when the gate is open, generally 9 a.m. to dusk.

A sign along Skyline Boulevard directs drivers up a dirt road where they will be greeted and provided with buckets for gathering chestnuts. Cost is $5.25 per pound.

Visitors should bring heavy leather gloves and sturdy shoes. Dogs on leash are permitted. Cash only is accepted. For updated orchard information, call 498-393-0337 or visit skylinetchestnuts.com.

**CALENDAR**


AIMGMP Meeting. Parents from the Menlo Park School District are invited to participate in making health services accessible for all. Refreshments and conversation with three professionals: Dr. Brendan Pratt, Ph.D., Linda Hunschois-Knowles, education therapist, and Patty Hoyle, OT., Thu., Nov. 12, 7:45 p.m. Ella Miller's Cafe, 150 Middlefield Road, Menlo Park.

Las Lomitas Book Fair. Proceeds of the book fair go to support the school's library and literacy programs. Nov. 8-12, 8 a.m.-6 p.m. (closing at 3:30 p.m. Fri.), Las Lomitas Book Fair, 209 Alamedas de las Pulgas, Atherton. www.laslomitas.org

Oil Painting Dunes of Horse. The Menlo Art League's November meeting will feature the artist and former jockey Tom Chapman, Wed., Nov. 11, 2-4 p.m. Free. Menlo-Park Recreation Center, 700 Aloma St., Menlo Park. Call 650-854-4658.

Music Under the Redwoods. Compositions for mixed ensembles of strings, violin, oboe, flute, clarinet and soprano. Nov. 14, 8:10 a.m.-1:15 p.m., general admission: $10 students and seniors. Valley Presbyterian Church, 955 Portola Road, Portola Valley. Call 831-338-8620. www.nucusa.org

"Paine Amara." This film documents the history of Chinese immigration to America from the mid-18th century to the end of the Second World War. Wed., Nov. 18, 7-9 p.m. 110, Menlo College, 1050 El Camino Real. Atherton. Call 650-688-9995. www.italy-atherton.org

**Long Term Health Care. Don Rush from the Council on Aging Silicon Valley will speak on "Long Term Care: Health Care for You and Your Loved Ones." No advance registration required. Thu., Nov. 12, 2-10:45 p.m. Free. Avery Club, 450 Bryant St., Palo Alto. Call 650-283-5436. averyclub.org

STANFORD SHOPPING CENTER • (650) 325-3533 GLEMEJEWELERS.COM