

Mark West Area Chamber of Commerce and VISITORS CENTER



BRINGING BUSINESS & THE COMMUNITY TOGETHER!

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Office Hours: Mon - Fri 10am - 3pm

www.markwest.org

office@markwest.org

The Lark

January 2010

Volume XXIV Issue 1

LEVI LEIPHEIMER AND ODESSA GUNN: 2009 SONOMA COUNTY SPIRIT AWARD HONOREES

The 9th Annual Sonoma County Spirit Award Luncheon was held on Friday, December 4th at the DoubleTree Hotel in Rohnert Park. Chambers of Commerce and local business organizations select Spirit Award recipients from their area who have contributed greatly to the vitality of Sonoma County through support of local community projects and nonprofit causes with their time, devotion and resources. The selection process was made extremely easy this year as our chamber decided to honor Mark West Area residents Odessa Gunn and her husband Levi Leipheimer.

During the selection process it became most difficult to imagine two individuals who constantly demonstrate their love of Sonoma County more than Odessa Gunn and her husband Levi Leipheimer. They have served their community quietly without seeking recognition and give generously of their time and financial resources to a wide variety of animal causes and cycling related events. Odessa and Levi have contributed immeasurably to the quality of life for residents and visitors of Sonoma County and are genuine pillars of strength in Sonoma County. They are caring, giving, loving, community-minded individuals who without a doubt are truly deserving of this recognition. They exemplify the theory behind the "Spirit of Sonoma County Award". *continued on page 4*



Supervisor Shirlee Zane presents Odessa and Levi with their 2009 Sonoma County Spirit Award



Chamber Board Members & Ambassadors with Odessa & Levi (names on page 4)

OUR ANNUAL HOLIDAY TREE LIGHTING!

The Mark West community celebrated the beginning of the holidays with a festive tree lighting and the arrival of Santa at the Larkfield Center. Thanks to our Chamber volunteers and staff, and to our sponsors for refreshments!

more photos on page 5



December Social hosted by Exchange Bank & Molsberry Markets, Inc. page 2

next AFTER HOURS BUSINESS SOCIAL

Welcome 2010 at our **AFTER HOURS BUSINESS SOCIAL**

Hosted by **GRP WEALTH STRATEGIES GROUP**

Happy New Year!

160 Wikiup Drive, Suite 101

Start 2010 with a new resolution! Use the Chamber to increase **your business!**

Thursday, January 14

5:30 pm - 7:30 pm

E-WASTE RECYCLING EVENT

Wells Fargo Center

January 9 & 10
8:30 am - 4:30 pm

next RIBBON CUTTING

CLUB WIN at Marie Callender's, 2460 Mendocino Ave.

Optional: stay for meeting & lunch at 12 noon (pay for your lunch from menu)

Tuesday, January 26

11:30 am



Will Brodt
President

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

By the time you are reading this Christmas is over and the New Year is upon us. So, **Happy New Year Mark West Area Chamber of Commerce!**

Congratulations to you all for surviving the 2009 recession. I can feel it, my palm is itching, 2010 is going to be a fantastic and prosperous year for us all.

As we move forward into the new year remember to refer your Mark West Chamber family of businesses to others. If we all continue with our givers gain attitude, 2010 will be a win-win for everyone.

I look forward to seeing you all at the Chamber Business-After-Hours Social. Hosted by Brad Pighin at GRP Wealth Strategies Group at 160 Wikiup Drive, Suite 101, Santa Rosa. I am told by Brad that he will have an awesome New Years theme. Sounds like lots of fun.

See you there.

Cheers, Will Brodt

Our Mission:

The Mark West Area Chamber of Commerce is organized to advance the economic well-being and uniqueness of the Mark West Area so that its citizens and all areas of its business community shall prosper.

The next Board of Director's meeting is January 12 at Grace Fellowship, 608 Larkfield Center 11:30 am - 1:00 pm

Want to keep abreast of important information pertinent to business and legislative items??

Go to: calchamber.com

Exchange Bank and Molsberry Markets, Inc. Host a Festive December Social

December's After Hours Business Social was hosted by Exchange Bank and Molsberry Markets, Inc., and was held at the Larkfield Shopping Center branch of Exchange Bank. Our cheerful hosts for the evening were dressed for the occasion wearing red Christmas themed outfits which added to the very lively holiday feel of the social. Making the gathering even jollier was the large turnout of chamber members and guests in attendance along with lots of scrumptious food, and an assortment of soft drinks, bottled water and wines.



Lori Caspar, Exchange Bank, Brian Molsberry, Molsberry Markets, Inc., Laura Buhrer, Exchange Bank

Chamber President and Ambassador Will Brodt from Promos OnCall served as Master of Ceremonies for the evening. Chamber board member and Larkfield Exchange Bank Branch Manager Laura Buhrer introduced some of her staff in attendance. Laura told everyone that at their recent annual employee breakfast, the Larkfield Branch was awarded Branch of the Year out of the 25 Exchange Bank locations. Laura said besides the hard work of her dedicated staff, their customers and our community was the reason for their award. Chamber board member Brian Molsberry along with Lori Molsberry talked about Molsberry Markets, Inc. Third-generation owner Brian Molsberry said *continued on page 3*

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continued from page 2

that their store has been so successful due to their many loyal customers and the focus on family ownership. Brian said many of his employees have the last name of Molsberry. Earlier this year Molsberry Markets, Inc. celebrated 50 years of being part of the Mark West Area community.

A new member plaque was presented to Eric Nelson of Anytime Fitness health club. Eric told everyone that Anytime Fitness' newest Santa Rosa location next door to Exchange Bank in the Larkfield Shopping Center is scheduled to open in January. Eric said the club will have 4650 square feet of the newest exercise equipment in the business. Eric extended a Grand Opening offer to Chamber members by waiving the standard initiation fee and offering a monthly rate of \$39.00. Eric described the club as being open 24/7 club (never closes) with a culture that is friendly and supportive. Another new member in attendance was artist Heather McConnell who is known as the Ocean Painter Chick. Heather is a full time oil painter who specializes in ocean views, sunrises and sunsets. Heather is also a singer who entertained everyone at the social with her excellent version of the Etta James song At Last. Also receiving a new member plaque was Kathy Reynolds from Curves of Wikiup. Kathy told everyone that Curves is a workout facility on Wikiup Drive designed specifically for women. They offer a complete 30 minute workout/weight management program that is fun, fast and safe.

The business drawn for the \$200.00 Pot of Gold was Stoke Ranch. Neither Joyce Partington nor Fred Stoke were able to attend. Interesting enough Joyce did attend last month's social but they were unable to attend the Airport Express/Aaction Rents September social in which they were also the member drawn (first member to be drawn twice!). \$20.00 will now be added to the Pot of Gold drawing at the January 14th social hosted by GRP Wealth Strategies Group, which now makes the pot a very rich \$220.00!

Our 50/50 raffle with \$95.00 was won by Mr. Michael Flitner of Keegan & Coppin Real Estate Services. Congratulations Michael! Prizes for our business card drawing were donated by Guardian Caregiver Connections, Exchange Bank, Molsberry Markets, Inc., Norton and Holtz Pre-Paid Legal Services, Anytime Fitness and Sonoma County Airport Express. Winners drawn included, Daryl Anderson from Wikiup Properties, Beverly Graham from GRP Wealth Strategies Group, Steve Plamann from Aactions Rents, Doug Williams from Rincon Valley Fire Department, Will Brodt from Promos OnCall and Jill Scherer from Club WIN. The two minute show case for next month's social was won by Pat Morelli from Wikiup Properties.

Congratulations to our winners and thank you to everyone at Exchange Bank and Molsberry Markets, Inc. for hosting such a fun and festive social.

Contributed by Anthony Gerald, Head Ambassador

**DECEMBER
SOCIAL
HOSTED BY
EXCHANGE
BANK AND
MOLSBERRY
MARKETS**



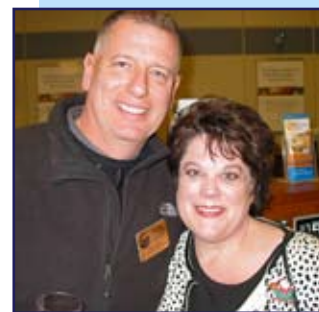
*Laura Buhner, Exchange Bank
Steve Plaumann, Aaction Rents
Will Brodt, Promos OnCall*



*Lori Molsberry
presents a gift
basket*



*Ron Malnati
Exchange Bank*



*Chamber Board Members
Brad Pighen, GRP Wealth
Strategies Group, Stephanie
Munson, Goodwill Industries*

*More photos at
MarkWest.org*



15 Lark Center Drive
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

707-546-5717
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BUSINESS-AFTER-HOURS-SOCIALS

JAN 14 GRP WEALTH STRATEGIES GROUP - Celebrate the start of the New Year with your Chamber!

FEB 11 HEALTHY ARE WE

MAR 11 NET PROFIT (with Windsor Chamber)

**2009
SONOMA
COUNTY
SPIRIT AWARD
HONOREES**



Levi Leipheimer, Odessa Gunn, Anthony Gerald, SC Airport Express



Will Brodt, Promos OnCall
Susan Lindstrom, Guardian Caregivers Connections
Stephanie Munson
Goodwill Industries



Levi Leipheimer, John Essman, Sonoma Connection



continued from page 1
As a major supporter and participant, Levi has been extremely instrumental in keeping a stage of the Tour of California here in Sonoma County closely working with local officials, speaking at public events and organizing fundraisers and groups. This past October Levi hosted his inaugural King Ridge Gran Fondo bike ride. All the funds raised from entry fees went to help benefit keeping Santa Rosa as a stage location on the Tour of California, and also to benefit Forget Me Not Farm of Sonoma County...two groups that are near and dear to Levi's heart.

Levi and his wife Odessa Gunn (a former World Class professional cyclist herself) actively support various animal welfare causes. With 18 pets of their own and welcoming over 100 foster animals into their home over the past 10 years as part of their animal rescue work, Levi and Odessa are spokespeople for PETA with Levi appearing in public service announcements promoting the importance of animal population control and welfare. Odessa is a board member for the Sonoma County Humane Society's Forget Me Not Farm as well as A Leg Up, which is a small dog rescue project here in Sonoma County. They are supporters of various animal-rescue groups and shelters and are devoted advocates of similar animal rights initiatives such as Forgotten Felines of Sonoma County. As Odessa once said, "It's my life ambition ... my purpose in life. Every night I go to bed thinking of all the suffering of animals. It's so daunting." On September 1st, Odessa influenced her friend Sheryl Crow to come to Santa Rosa for a performance at the Wells Fargo Center to benefit Forget Me Not Farm, Forgotten Felines and A Leg Up. Odessa and Levi have made their home in the Mark West Area of Santa Rosa for the last 10 years.

Joining Odessa and Levi and honoring them at the luncheon were a number of ambassadors and board members from the chamber. Included were board member and Head Ambassador Tony Gerald from Sonoma County Airport Express, Chamber President and ambassador Will Brodt from Promos Oncall, board member Elaine Holtz from Pre-Paid Legal Services, board member Brian Molsberry from Molsberry Markets, ambassador Kimberlee Anderson from Assets Insurance & Investments, ambassador Jerry Hankins from Hankins Travel, ambassador Susan Lindstrom from Guardian Caregiver Connections, board member Stephanie Munson from Goodwill Industries and board member and Treasurer John Essman from Sonoma Connection.

The Mark West Area Chamber of Commerce congratulates and thanks Odessa and Levi for their tireless years of volunteer service and for their contribution to Sonoma County on a local, national and international level.

Contributed by Anthony Gerald, Head Ambassador

Brian Molsberry, Molsberry Markets, Inc., Kimberlee Anderson, Assets Insurance, Jerry Hankins, Hankins Travel



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MESSAGE FROM MWUSD SUPERINTENDENT

I hope you are looking forward to a fun and festive holiday season. The fall semester was successful and we are committed to continuing to provide the highest quality of education and service for the youth of our community. We are looking forward to a successful 2010.

As you may know, the District is in the process of assessing our school facilities and planning for potential improvements. We have accomplished so much in the last decade to improve our schools, including the new multipurpose room, library and computer lab at Mark West Elementary, new administrative office and other improvements to San Miguel Elementary, and the new classrooms at Riebli Elementary, pending State funding.

The community's support of Measure "I" in 2002 helped the District qualify for \$3 million in State funding to improve our schools.

Local support and Measure "I" helped meet our school facility needs over the last decade, and now we are assessing our capital needs for the next ten years. This planning will help us maintain our investment in our schools and continue to provide an excellent education for all our students. Our school facility needs include:

- Completion of the new classrooms at Riebli School
- Renovate or replace portables at Mark West, Riebli, & San Miguel schools
- Modernize classrooms and facilities, including providing new roofing, heating, and air conditioning at all schools
- Improve student access to computers and modern technology
- Improve safety and traffic flow at Riebli school
- Provide permanent facilities for Mark West Charter School

The District is currently reviewing options to finance these improvements. One of the options under consideration is a general obligation bond measure. The earliest a bond measure could be on the ballot is June 2010. Any proposed bond measure would require an independent oversight committee and annual audits to ensure money is used only for voter approved school improvements and repairs and not used for salaries, administration, and overhead.

We will be holding a series of school site meetings in January for parents to meet with the District and school site staff to discuss these school facility needs. We encourage all parents, community members, and school staff attendance and active participation in these meetings scheduled as follows:

- **Mark West Elementary – January 14, 2010 at 3:30 P.M. in the Music Room**
- **John Riebli Elementary – January 20, 2010 at 6:30 P.M. in the Multi-Use Room**
- **San Miguel Elementary – January 22, 2010 at 9:00 A.M. in Room 25**

I encourage you to attend one of these meetings so we can get your feedback as we develop the District's facility program. If you have any questions, please call me at (707) 524-2972 or email me at kschultz@mwusd.org
 Kay Schultz, Superintendent, Mark West Union School District

**HOLIDAY TREE
 LIGHTING
 FEATURING THE
 MWUSD CHOIR
 & SANTA!**


*MWUSD Choir Director with
 Will Brodt, Promos OnCall
 Chamber President*



NEW MEMBERS

Anytime Fitness

Brett Livingstone
490 Larkfield Center
Santa Rosa, CA 95403
brett@sportmedics.com

Jewel Ann Alizah Bryan

P.O. Box 9085
Santa Rosa, CA 90405
jewel@markwest.org
jewelalazah@netscape.net

CORPORATE SPONSOR RENEWALS

Sonoma Connection 2003
Sutter Medical Center 2004

RENEWALS

Wikiup Golf Course 1988
Wikiup Properties 1988
Airport Business Center 1989
Markell Inc. 1989
Airport Health Club 1990
BoDean Co. Inc. 1993
Petrified Forest 1994
Garzini Floors 1997
Triple Crown Awards 1998
Realty World Town and Country Properties 1999
American Ag Credit 2001
American Red Cross 2002
Clone Printing 2004
Grace Fellowship 2005
Assets Insurance 2007
Guardian Caregiver Connections 2007
Michael & Co. Jewelers 2007
Sonic Net Inc. 2007
Bistro 29 2008
Healthy Are We 2008
Sapphire Salon 2008
Integrative Medical Clinic 2009

NEW MEMBERS RECOGNIZED AT OUR LAST SOCIAL!

Will Brodt of Promos OnCall, Chamber President, presented new Chamber members with their membership plaques.

Congratulations and welcome to our Chamber!



Eric Nelson of Anytime Fitness with Laura Buhner, Exchange Bank



Jewel Ann Alizah Bryan Honorary Member & Chamber Office Manager



Artist Heather McConnell



Kathy Reynolds from Curves of Wikiup

MEMBER PROFILE: REAL GOOD SOLAR

Real Goods Solar is a leading solar energy integrator, having installed over 4,800 solar systems for both residential and commercial properties in Colorado and California.



Real Goods pioneered the sustainable living industry, beginning with its sale of the first solar photovoltaic panels in the United States in 1978, and has expanded solar information and education for over 30 years.

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For a reliable partner to walk you through the process, we're with you every step of the way. Real Goods Solar is publicly traded under the symbol RSOL (NASDAQ).

For more information, go to www.realgoodssolar.com or call 888.507.2561.

MARK WEST AREA COMMUNITY INFORMATION

AREA POPULATION - within a 3 mile radius - 20,000
 ELEVATION - 160 feet above sea level
 BOUNDARIES - Area approximately bounded by:
 Shiloh Road - North Piner Road - South
 West Olivet Road - West Lodge on Mark West Springs Rd - East

The Lark Newsletter is published monthly under the direction of:
 The Mark West Area Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Center
 4787 Old Redwood Hwy, Suite 101, Santa Rosa, CA 95403

ADVERTISING: 6 months \$107.50; 1 year \$200
 FLYER INSERTION: \$35 per issue.
 You supply 300 copies of your 8.5" x 11" flyer on 20# paper.

The Lark Newsletter is mailed to member businesses each month.
 For more information, contact the Chamber Office Manager at 578-7975.

Editors: Kathleen Palmer & John Essman (707) 433-8774
 Sonoma CONNECTION info@sonomaconnection.com

Printing: Clone Digital Printing & Copying (707) 527-6565

Deadline for publication is the 3rd Wednesday of the month.
 Please email your materials to info@markwest.org

*Promote your business with
 your flyer in the Chamber newsletter.
 You supply the flyers - We do the work!*

CHAMBER MEMBERSHIP DUES

Effective May 1, 2006

Standard Dues		Non-Profit Dues
\$125.00	Business (1-5 Personnel)	\$110.00
\$175.00	Business (6-10 Personnel)	\$155.00
\$245.00	Business (11+ Personnel)	\$215.00
\$625.00	Corporate Sponsor	
\$ 95.00	Individual (no business affiliation)	

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*Interested in joining our
 Ambassador Club?
 Contact
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 tony@airportexpressinc.com*



Mark West Area Chamber of Commerce and VISITORS CENTER



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Santa Rosa, CA 95403

Happy New Year!

Welcome 2010

at our

AFTER HOURS BUSINESS SOCIAL

THURSDAY

January 14, 2009

5:30pm - 7:30pm

hosted by

GRP WEALTH STRATEGIES GROUP

160 Wikiup Drive
Suite 101

*Best Wishes for a Bountiful Holiday Season
and a Prosperous New Year!*

BRINGING BUSINESS & THE COMMUNITY TOGETHER!

Thank you to our 20th Annual Harvest Faire & Business Showcase Vendors & Participants!

MORE PHOTOS NEXT MONTH!



California Reverse Mortgage Consultants

Calligraphics

Cal State Central Credit Union

Advent Office Supply

Assets Insurance

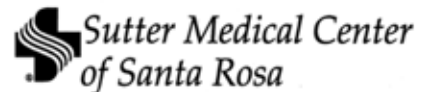
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