

Viva la Dance

This weekend I listened to a new CD by the band Coldplay called "Viva la Vida." There's a song on the CD that reminds me of the jazz musician and pianist Vince Guaraldi. For those of you who don't know who he is, Vince Guaraldi is probably best known for composing much of the music used in the *Peanuts* animation, including the show's signature theme song, "Linus & Lucy." This is one of my favorite songs. When I hear it I can just picture Schroeder playing his piano, while Snoopy jams on the guitar and Pig Pen plays the base fiddle. But the part I love the most is all the *Peanuts* characters dancing to the music. There's Lucy, Linus, Peppermint Patty, Sally, and the rest of the *Peanuts* gang. They're in the mood, they're in the moment, and they're each doing their own unique little dance.

Every time I hear that music it puts me in a much more playful mood. Often times I think it would be a great way to help liven up certain meetings I go to. I can picture all the participants in the meeting as they jump up and start dancing. I've even considered playing it in our office when our staff is having a low day. Especially when I can tell that I'm starting to sound like one of the adults voices from the *Peanuts*. "Wah, wah, wah wa-wa wahh."

The theme song from the *Peanuts* makes you want to forget about your troubles. It's infectious, the same as when I watch Peggy Schultz teaching the children in her dance class. Peggy is not related to Charles M. Schulz. But she is Stu Shaner's sister. Her students remind me of the *Peanuts* characters, as they dance to the music with pure delight.

I've always loved to dance, though I'm not a very good dancer. Far from it. But I love the opportunity to feel free, to let the music take me wherever. Freeform or structured, it's not important. It's the beauty of the senses that dance lets you experience and explore. I had a great time this summer attending the Concerts in the Park. It was fun to watch our staff get the crowd going and watch the little kids (and big kids!) enjoy the music and dance without inhibition. I'm also inspired by those who dance with skill and technical expertise. Shows such as "So You Think You Can Dance" are amazing. But it's the simple dance that we do each day, hopefully every day, that's important. Don't let your life pass by without a smile and a dance. Viva la dance.

FRRPD Dance Classes

Peggy Schultz has been teaching people to dance for more than 45 years. She has offered dance classes through FRRPD since 2002. Peggy provides instruction in a

variety of dance styles, from tap to jazz to ballet, and even Pilates. She offers classes for all different age groups and abilities. Peggy even teaches a dance class for children as young as two called "Rhythm for Tiny Tots," and "Pre-Dance" for children between the ages of 4-5.

If country is more your style, sign up for one of Cindy Aldrich's "Line Dancing" classes. Or you can go exotic with "Belly Dancing" taught by Janice Griffiths.

For more information about dance classes offered through FRRPD, or to enroll in a dance class, call the District office at 533-2011.

Pat Alley Memorial Dog Park

Local resident, longtime dog trainer and lifetime animal lover Pat Alley passed away recently on September 7. In honor of the 16 years Pat invested into the Oroville community, the Feather River Recreation and Park District is proud to dedicate the future dog park at Riverbend as the Pat Alley Memorial Dog Park.

A memorial fund has been set up through FRRPD. All donations will go towards the Pat Alley Memorial Dog Park. For more information, call the District office at 533-2011.

Quote

"Sing like no one's listening, love like you've never been hurt, dance like nobody's watching, and live like its heaven on earth." ~ Mark Twain

"To watch us dance is to hear our hearts speak." ~ Hopi Indian Saying

Fun Facts

A group of geese on the ground is a gaggle. A group of geese in the air is a skein.

A hippo can open its mouth wide enough to fit a 4-foot tall child inside.

It's against the law to pawn your dentures in Las Vegas.

Upcoming Events

Salmon Festival, September 26-28. (For a complete schedule of events, contact the Oroville Chamber of Commerce at 538-2542.)

Friday – Friends of the Feather River Nature Center annual Salmon and Tri-tip BBQ.

Saturday – Various activities at the Feather River Hatchery from 10:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Vendors, artists, music and food in downtown Oroville provided by the Downtown Business Association. Butte County Office of Education After School Program Annual Family Fun Day.

Saturday & Sunday – “Salmon on the Green Line Children’s Art Contest” presented by the Artists of River Town and the After School Program at the State Theater and Municipal Auditorium. Maidu Salmon Ceremony at the Feather River Nature Center.

See you in the parks!