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Words up

Broken Word poets keep the beat at The Farmer & The Cook

Nancy Gross
OVN contributor

Thursday's Broken Word poetry reading at The Farmer and The Cook was a perfect midsummer night's dream.

Awnings had been stretched to keep the audience cool until sunset. Relaxation, intellectual stimulation, humor, conversation and organic vegetarian meals with locally grown ingredients mingled as light faded. Organic beer and wine, including luxurious purple sangria heavy with summer fruits, were discounted at this happy hour event. Educator and graphic designer P. Lyn Middleton coordinated the event and was master of ceremonies. He was also one of eight readers.

Other readers were Robert Peake, Danielle Camacho, Quin Mallory, Crystal Salas, Paul Ferricano, Steve Sprinkel (the farmer of The Farmer and The Cook) and Johnny Fonteyn. Each delivered a different flavor from the podium. Cooks and servers brought fresh fare to tables: homemade guacamole, tostadas full of greens, zucchini, pumpkin and cheese, quesadillas with squash blossoms and chilies, and veggie burgers were on the menu.

Patrons walked, rode bicycles or drove. Michelle and Eric Gilligan of Carpinteria heard about the evening when reading about organic food happenings online. They are fond of Ojai, often riding up on bicycles, and had visited The Farmer and The Cook before.

Middleton assured all that the "broken word" idea is not related to broken promises or politics, but with pauses of poetic language these are "words to be rolled around in one's



Photo by Scott Wintermute

Famed musician Roger Kellaway at his home in Ojai. Kellaway is helping Clint Eastwood score his new movie on Nelson Mandela battle against apartheid.

Keeping Scores

Eastwood hires Ojai pianist for Mandela movie

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Ojai is home to many legendary musicians and Roger Kellaway is one of them. He plays and composes for a multitude of genres and said, "Each type of music has its own excitement." Few musicians are lucky enough to create a successful career, but Kellaway found a way.

Recently, Kellaway received a call from Clint Eastwood. "He asked me if I would come over to the studio and do some work for him at the piano," said Kellaway. One or two phone calls later, Eastwood asked Kellaway to help him with the score for his new movie. Eastwood, a jazz pianist, has a developed a score for the movie, but Kellaway was called in to refine the score and add some of his own colors.

"Clint and I are friends. He narrated for a project of mine, 'Visions of America,'" said Kellaway. Kellaway composed music for "Visions of America," a film that documents American democracy with photographs from

"I am most excited about conducting a full orchestra."

— Roger Kellaway

another Ojai resident, Joseph Sohm. Kellaway is thrilled to work with Eastwood again and said, "I am most excited about conducting a full orchestra." The orchestra is currently comprised of 44-strings, but he hopes to add a few more.

Eastwood's movie, "Invictus," is planned to be released sometime this fall so it can meet the academy's deadline to be eligible for an award. The movie will star Morgan Freeman, Matt Damon and Scott Eastwood. "Invictus" is a William Ernest Henley poem that Nelson Mandela, the former South African president who was jailed for his major role as an anti-apartheid activist, often recited. Eastwood's film is a biography of

Ojai makes cut for top tennis town

Big vote effort brings small town close to \$100,000 prize

With a massive marketing effort that included thousands of e-mails, postcards, signs and word of mouth, Ojai has earned a shot at becoming America's "Best Tennis Town."

If chosen during the U.S. Open, Ojai will earn \$100,000 from the USTA to be used for communitywide tennis programming or facility enhancements. The second and third prize winners will receive \$50,000 and \$25,000, respectively, to be used toward the same purposes.

To win, Ojai must beat out Independence, Kan., and Midland, Mich.

The ultimate winner of the "Best Tennis Town" search will be announced during the 2009 U.S. Open, which will be held from Aug. 29 through Sept. 13 at the USTA Billie Jean King

National Tennis Center in New York City.

"The search for America's 'Best Tennis Town' is the USTA's first-ever nationwide search to identify the local area — from small, rural towns to large, urban metro areas and everywhere in between — that best exemplifies the passion, excitement, spirit and impact that tennis brings to the local level," according to the USTA press release.

Tennis towns from all over the country submitted their entries for consideration on besttennistown.com between May 1 and July 1, and after carefully reviewing each submission, a panel of judges selected 10 communities as finalists for the

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Ojai connections help make movie

Nancy Gross
OVN contributor

The Aug. 14 premiere of National Lampoon's "Endless Bummer," written, twice produced and supported by Ojai locals, with an '80s-inspired rocking sound track on Joan Jett's Blackheart Records is a cool Ojai event that you don't want to miss; an evening of parties, music and prizes will surround the showing of the film. If you are not already convinced that there is magic in Ojai, by connecting the dots in this film's course from conception to finished product, you will surely come to believe.

One of the producers,

Ojai's Reno Rolle, chief executive officer of Red Rock Pictures, Inc., a production arm of National Lampoon, joined the project fairly recently and helped get the movie "over the finish line." Rolle states that the film is "entertaining and light and funny, but at the same time there is a good message."

The coming-of-age story is the true story of John Drury, currently living in Ojai. Set in the summer of 1984 and shot entirely in Ventura with some Ojai residents as extras, the story details the experience of Drury, aka J.D., who as a teen saved for his dream

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