

Explore the Island City through lively events

By Jeanne Cooper

No matter what the season, Alameda offers lively events that showcase unique aspects of the island, from a renowned monthly antiques fair to multimedia art experiences, an international film festival and beloved holiday traditions. Here are some highlights to mark on your calendar:

CELEBRATING THE ARTS

Every second Friday of the month, select Alameda art galleries and businesses stay open late, often providing wine, light refreshments or entertainment. Called Second Friday Artwalk, the event is "a way for the community to get out on a Friday

night and experience the arts and the place they live," according to Janet Koike, artistic director and founder of Rhythmix Cultural Works in Alameda.

The May 11 Artwalk includes the opening of "Cal Vita: Nature as Sustenance" at Rhythmix's K Gallery. Curated by local artist Ginny Parsons, the show honors both nature and Koike's father, founder of Cal Vita produce company, who "allowed me the means to sow the seeds for an art center in Alameda," Koike said. For details, see www.fridayartwalk.com.

Rhythmix will also stage the second Island City Waterways, a 75-minute roving theatrical performance with music and dance,

on May 19-20 at Crab Cove, Crown Memorial State Beach. The arts center will also participate in the third Love Our Island Art Walk Series, which combines the Second Friday Artwalk with temporary art installations in empty storefronts along Park and Webster streets, on June 3. For details, see www.islandcitywaterways.org and www.rhythmix.org, respectively.

The third annual Alameda International Film Festival, Nov. 2-4, may officially debut with a gala at the historic Alameda Theatre, but festival organizers and partners Colin Blake and Mark Farrell will also present a special tribute to Robin Williams on Oct. 20, with a 25th anniversa-

ry screening of "Mrs. Doubtfire" at Rock Wall Wine Company. In addition, the film festival will sponsor free screenings of classic movies Oct. 26-Nov. 1 as part of Alameda Film Week.

"Alameda has everything one could hope for between film programs," said Mark Farrell, citing the wide variety of international restaurants and vintage establishments such as Ole's Waffle Shop and Tucker's ice cream parlor among the city's attractions.

Many Park Street businesses will also provide discounts to festivalgoers, Farrell added.

Although the full film lineup has yet to be announced, festival passes, tickets to the opening

night gala and Robin Williams tribute are on sale now at www.alamedafilmmfest.com.

ANTIQUES AND AUCTIONS

Held the first Sunday of every month, the Alameda Point Antiques Faire is the largest antiques show in Northern California, with more than 800 vendors of vintage finds, fashion and food.

The former Alameda Naval Air Station provides plenty of room for some 10,000 patrons to browse the wares, all at least 20 years old, and for amenities such as a customers' lounge, toilets, shopping cart rentals, free parking and a shuttle.

Alameda CHAMBER of COMMERCE



FATHER'S DAY WEEKEND

JUNE 16 & 17

10:00 am - 6:00 pm

ALONG ALAMEDA'S HISTORIC WEBSTER STREET



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