

February

8

Executive Board
Chamber Office
12:15pm

14

Ribbon Cutting
Blood Centers
of the Pacific
12 noon

22

Art & Wine Committee
Chamber Office
11:00am

24

Lunar New Year Festival
Millbrae
Community Center
9am-4pm

26

Board of Directors
El Rancho Inn
6pm

27

Business After Five Mixer
Fiddler's Green
5:30pm

March

10

Millbrae Street Scramble
Millbrae's
Constitution Plaza
9am

19

Board of Directors
El Rancho Inn
6pm

24

Jasmine Blossom Festival
Millbrae
Community Center
10am - 4pm

Mission Statement:

The mission of the Millbrae Chamber of Commerce is to provide leadership and support to effect positive results for the business

Business Awards Recap

The Millbrae Chamber of Commerce honored the winners of the annual Millbrae Business Awards at a dinner on January 18th. A record crowd of over 110 people attended the dinner, which was held in the Palm Room at the El Rancho Inn & Suites. The Chamber received many highly-qualified nominations for the awards, and the selection committee reviewed each based on the criteria that are established for the awards. Nominations for next year's awards will be accepted beginning in October.



The Business of the Year award, co-sponsored by the Rotary Club of Millbrae, was given to Chapel of the Highlands. Family-owned and operated since 1952, Chapel of the Highlands has been under the direction of Paul Larson since his father, founder H. Clarence Larson, passed away in 1999. Paul and his staff take their responsibility to their community seriously and are totally committed to providing the highest level of service to the families who seek their help.

Fiddler's Green Irish Pub & Restaurant was the winner of the Restaurant of the Year award. The establishment has been a favorite of peninsula residents since it opened in 1991. It features a traditional pub atmosphere with friendly Irish staff serving up Irish beers, appetizers and traditional Irish fare for lunch, dinner and weekend brunch. Oliver and

Rose McElhone, the owners of Fiddler's Green, were surprised and pleased to learn that their restaurant was chosen from among the many outstanding restaurants in Millbrae.

In being chosen as the winner of the Chamber Excellence award, World Journal Incorporated was honored for their community efforts in helping to bridge the gap between the community and its growing Asian population. World Journal has been in business for 30 years and is one of Millbrae's largest employers producing the leading Chinese newspaper in North America.

The Millbrae Historical Society was presented with the President's Award for their ongoing contributions to the community. The volunteer organization is responsible for preserving the unique history of Millbrae and making it available to the community through the Millbrae Museum and the recently opened Railroad Museum, located at the former Millbrae Train Station.

A special Chamber Service Award was given to Marjorie Wilson. She has been a member of the Millbrae Chamber of Commerce for nearly 40 years and was recognized for her years of service and volunteerism. Marjorie continues to be active in the Chamber as a member of the Ambassador Committee and as a volunteer at the Art & Wine Festival.

(Additional photos on page 3)

Business After Five

mixer hosted by

fiddler's green

Tuesday, February 27th

5:30pm - 7pm

Fun ♦ Food ♦ Networking



New Members

Welcome to the Chamber!

Comerica Bank

Brandi Van Dolah
 49 El Camino Real
 Millbrae, CA 94030
 (650) 697-6951
 www.comerica.com

Comerica is a financial services company headquartered in Detroit and now with a branch location in Millbrae at Millbrae Ave. and El Camino Real. Comerica Bank is an active member of the communities in which it is located. To learn more about Comerica Bank, please visit their website at www.comerica.com or stop by the new branch.

100% Healthy Dessert

Wai Yee Tran
 328 Broadway
 Millbrae, CA 94030
 (650) 697-9488

100% Healthy Dessert recently opened their doors on Broadway in Millbrae and offers up a wide array of desserts, specialty drinks, and other types of tasty creations and snacks in a casual, modern atmosphere perfect for enjoying a sweet treat with friends. Stop by and treat yourself soon!

Super Suppers

Sharlene Chew
 1085 El Camino Real
 Millbrae, CA 94030
 www.ssmillbrae.com

Super Suppers, soon to open in Millbrae Plaza (in the location previously occupied by Togo's), is the answer for busy people with little time to prepare food or cook, but who still want to present healthy, home-made meals to their families. A visit to Super Suppers is all it takes to quickly assemble and take home a week's worth of tasty meals! They do all the prep work for you. Check out Super Suppers for help with the question on everyone's mind: What's for dinner?



Save the Date

County-Wide Mixer

March 13

Virgin America - Burlingame

Board Chair's Message

by Lisa Fitzgibbons Charney
 Board Chair



Excerpts from Lisa's speech at the Business Awards and Installation Dinner

I am proud to be standing here as this year's incoming Board Chair. I consider myself privileged to be working side by side with an outstanding group of business people that make up our Board of Directors.

Aristotle once said, "The way to achieve success is first to have a definite, clear, practical ideal – a goal, an objective." That is what the Millbrae Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors does every year. We gathered last December for our annual planning session where we outlined our program of work for 2007. The primary objectives for the year are:

- Promote the Chamber
- Increase involvement of existing members
- Expand the membership base
- Bridge the gap between the new and established businesses in Millbrae

I believe promotion is a key factor in making the Chamber even more successful. This year you will see an aggressive ad campaign to promote the Chamber and Millbrae. The members of our community must know who we are and what we are about. If every Chamber member communicates the benefits of the Chamber with the non-member businesses in Millbrae, our membership and influence will grow.

Having a vibrant, well-promoted Chamber will be a catalyst for getting people involved. I can speak from experience with my involvement in the Chamber and throughout the community that my business benefits from that involvement. The more involved we are, the more we know about the ever changing business environment in Millbrae.

An ongoing challenge the Chamber faces in respect to our business community is the gap that exists between the older, established businesses and the newer ones. Finding a way to bridge that gap will be a strong focus for the Chamber this year. We will rely on our existing members to help us reach out to the new businesses so that together we can create a stronger business community in Millbrae.

Chamber News

Millbrae Street Scramble

Street Scramble returns to Millbrae on Saturday, March 10. This time, an entirely new set of checkpoints will take you to still more of Millbrae's nooks and crannies. As last year, the Chetcuti Community Room will serve as our event center, with a 10:00 a.m. start time (registration is from 8:30-9:30am).

We invite our Street Scramble "veterans" as well as "first-timers" to join us for this fun community event. You can help us get the word out by telling your family and friends, distributing posters, inviting the organizer to make a presentation to your group, or getting schoolmates or athletic teams to participate.

The 2007 Millbrae Street Scramble is presented by the Millbrae Chamber of Commerce, and a portion of sponsorship proceeds will support the Chamber's student scholarship fund. We wish to thank South San Francisco Scavenger Company, Chapel of the Highlands, and the Millbrae Historical Society for their generous support. Contact the Chamber office if your business or organization would like to get involved.

Pre-registration for Street Scramble is available on-line. For more information, please visit the Street Scramble web site: millbrae.StreetScramble.com.

City/County News

Blood Centers of the Pacific Opens Center in Millbrae

Blood Centers of the Pacific opened its new 8,000-square-foot center at 111 Rollins Road (near Wilson Plaza) on January 30. The Millbrae center, which supplies hundreds of pints of blood to 41 Bay Area hospitals daily, quadruples the size of the center's temporary location in San Mateo where it has been located for the past two years.

An official Grand Opening ceremony will be held on Wednesday, February 14 at noon. Dignitaries from the City of Millbrae will be on hand to welcome BCP to Millbrae. Members of the community and Chamber are invited to attend.

The Peninsula location averages 40-50 donors a day, six days a week, and is the blood center's second largest office, after its San Francisco headquarters. The blood bank's new location is within walking distance from BART and Caltrain at the multimodal Millbrae station, which was a key factor in selecting the site.

The new office has 10 donor beds and includes four "e-chairs" that allow donors to surf the Internet or watch a DVD during longer procedures such as blood plasma or platelet donations — each of which take about 90 minutes.

More information about donating blood is available by calling 1-888-393-GIVE.



Millbrae Business Awards Dinner



Green Corner



Got Junk Mail?!

Unsolicited junk mail is a waste. It is a waste of natural resources and for businesses it's a waste of money. Your business can take action to stop this waste, both in the amount of unsolicited mail you receive and send.

The City of Millbrae is one of 110 cities in the Bay Area participating in the regional campaign to reduce junk mail to save our national resources.

Stop the unsolicited mail from coming to your business.

With the Stop Junk Mail Kit your business can substantially reduce the amount of unsolicited mail received—which can save staff time spent handling mail and money spent disposing of mail. Your business will be doing its part to reduce junk mail's burden on our natural resources. Over 100 million trees and over 28 billion gallons of water are used to produce one year's worth of this country's junk mail.

If you're concerned about global warming, those 100 million trees would be sufficient to offset the greenhouse gasses released by every personal vehicle registered in San Francisco—three times over!

Your business can take action to stop this waste and help fight global warming. It's much easier than you think.

Go online or call and request the FREE Stop Junk Mail Kit.

Online at www.StopJunkMail.org

Call, toll-free, 877-STOPWASTE (786-7927)

The Stop Junk Mail Kit shows you how to get off junk mailing lists and keep new junk mail from finding its way to your mailbox. The Kit also provides other important information on how to ensure that your name and address don't get traded, rented, or sold to companies who send you unwanted mail.

To learn more about reducing the amount of junk mail or on recycling, composting and hazardous waste, call the City's Recycling & Waste Prevention Program at 650-259-2444.

The City of Millbrae Recycling & Waste Prevention Program provides Green Corner articles. Free brochures, and waste prevention and recycling assistance are available to businesses. Call 259-2444.

Employers Corner

Important for Employers to Distinguish Between Volunteers, Employees

Can a for-profit business make use of unpaid volunteers?

It is highly unlikely. The organization generally would have to be non-profit. When determining whether one is a volunteer, the controlling factor is the intent of both the business and the potential volunteer. Coercion must not be present.

If the person intends to volunteer his/her services in the spirit of devotion, self-sacrifice or service to the needy, that person is not an employee. If the person is performing tasks that might otherwise be performed by an employee, it is not likely that such a person could be a volunteer. Because of the tacit threat of adverse action, employers and employees seldom deal with each other on an equal footing, creating a serious question about someone's intention.

On the other hand, members of charitable, medical, religious or volunteer social organizations usually are involved out a sense of duty and obligation. The individual may be considered a volunteer if they intend to donate their services to one of these types of organizations without contemplation of pay and for public service, religious or humanitarian objectives.

When the religious, charitable or non-profit corporation operates a commercial enterprise serving the general public, however, such enterprises are subject to the Industrial Welfare Commission orders, and persons performing services therefore would have to be employees.

Labor Law Corner is reprinted with permission of the California Chamber of Commerce. For expert explanations of labor laws and Cal/OSHA regulations, not legal counsel for specific situations, call (800) 348-2262 or email: helpline@calchamber.com.

Social Security Wage Base for 2007

Social Security has announced the increase in 2007 for the maximum amount of earnings subject to the Social Security tax. The Social Security wage base will be \$97,500, up from \$94,200 in 2006. Employers should withhold Social Security taxes (6.2 percent) from employees' wages up to \$97,500 and withhold the Medicare tax (1.45 percent) on all wages. Employers must match the tax payments withheld from employees' wages.

2007 Officers

Board Chair	
Lisa Fitzgibbons Charney	Millbrae Jewelers
First Vice Chair	
George Venezia	First National Bank of No. California
Second Vice Chair	
Judy Clarke	Cashin Company Realtors
Corporate Secretary	
Gail DeAlba	Best Western El Rancho Inn & Suites

2007 Board Members

Janet Fogarty	Fogarty & Zell, LLP
Wella Kuo	Bank of the Orient
Paul A. Larson	Chapel of the Highlands
Dr. Thomas Lightner	Back to Motion Chiropractic
Antonio Maramonte	Civic Member
Barry Ongerth	San Francisco Airport South Travelodge
Daniel Quigg	Handyman
Tedi Vriheas	AT&T
Ed Weinstein	Millbrae Florist

Staff Members

John Ford	President/CEO
Lorianne Richardson	Executive Assistant
Frank Catania	Farmers' Market Manager

ADVERTISE in our NEWSLETTER !

Members of the Millbrae Chamber have the opportunity to advertise their business services or products in the Chamber newsletter.

Call the Chamber @ 697-7324
to reserve your advertising space.

Community Events

Farmers' Market

Sponsored by the Chamber,
held every Saturday, year-round from
8 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the 200 block of El Camino/Broadway.

Millbrae Annual Art & Wine Festival
Labor Day Weekend

Publication Information

This newsletter is a monthly publication of the Millbrae Chamber of Commerce.
For information on submitting articles,
ads and flyers, call 697-7324.

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Celebrating? We want to hear from you! If you know of someone achieving a milestone in their life — a marriage, an anniversary, a scholarship, an honor — please let us know by sending an e-mail to celebrations@examiner.com

COMMUNITY » KATHLEEN JAY

Local leaders honored

Millbrae chamber gives nods to businesses and groups for achievements this year

On Jan. 18, the Millbrae Chamber of Commerce held its eighth annual Business Awards dinner at which it honored local businesses and organizations in three categories: Business of the Year, Restaurant of the Year, and Chamber Excellence. More than 75 friends, family, chamber members and local business leaders attended the presentation, which was held at the Palm Room at the El Rancho Inn in Millbrae.

"The Business Awards give us a nice chance to recognize and reward the contributions of exceptional businesses and organizations in Millbrae," Chamber President and CEO John Ford said.

Organizations that were honored at the event include: the Chapel of the Highlands (Business of the Year); Fiddler's Green Irish Pub & Restaurant (Restaurant of the Year) and World Journal Incorporated (Chamber Excellence Award). In addition, the Millbrae Historical Society was also honored with the President's Award for its work in preserving and displaying Millbrae's unique history.

For more information, call (650) 697-7324 or visit www.millbrae.com.

BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

Chapel of the Highlands

Co-sponsored by the Rotary Club of Millbrae, the 2007 Business of the Year award was given to Chapel of the Highlands, a family-owned and operated funeral home that has been serving the community over the last 55 years.

"Chapel of the Highlands is a role model for businesses in Millbrae," said Deirdri Gladwin, a member of the selection committee representing the Rotary Club. "We are fortunate to have such a caring and compassionate business in our community."



Paul Larson

Chapel of the Highlands, which opened in 1952, is under the direction of Paul Larson, who has run the family-owned business since his father, founder H. Clarence Larson, passed away in 1999.

Chapel of the Highlands is located at 198 Millwood Drive in Millbrae. For more information, visit www.chapelofthehighlands.com or call (650) 588-5116.

RESTAURANT OF THE YEAR

Fiddler's Green Irish Pub & Restaurant

Located at 333 El Camino Real in Millbrae, Fiddler's Green Irish Pub & Restaurant was awarded the chamber's Restaurant of the Year. The business, which opened in 1991, features a traditional Irish pub that serves up Irish beer and traditional Irish fare, including lunch, dinner and weekend brunch. The restaurant is owned and run by Oliver and Rose McElhone.

"The committee had a tough choice to make thanks to the impressive restaurants that were nominated," said Lee Clothakis, Business Awards Committee chair. "All the nominated businesses were very deserving, but the friendly service at Fiddler's Green elevated them to the top of the list. Open daily from 9:30 a.m. to 2 a.m., visit www.fiddlersgreenmillbrae.com or call (650) 697-3419 for more information.



Ginny Soong

CHAMBER EXCELLENCE AWARD

World Journal Incorporated

As winner of the Chamber Excellence Award, the Millbrae Chamber of Commerce honored World Journal Incorporated, for its community efforts in helping to bridge the gap between the local community and its growing Asian population. The Chinese-language newspaper, which has been in business for 30 years, is one of Millbrae's largest employers.

World Journal has provided financial sponsorships and extensive media coverage for events, such as the Lunar New Year celebration and the concert for the Millbrae School District's music program. Located at 231 Adrian Road, the newspaper's publisher is Ginny Soong. For more information, visit www.worldjournal.com or call (650) 692-9936

PRESIDENT'S AWARD

Millbrae Historical Society

The Millbrae Historical Society was honored with the Millbrae Chamber of Commerce's President's Award for its ongoing contributions to the community.

The volunteer organization, which runs the Millbrae Museum at 450 Poplar Avenue and the Millbrae Train

MILLBRAE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE WELCOMES NEW BOARD MEMBERS

During the eighth annual Millbrae Chamber of Commerce Business Awards dinner on Jan. 18, Millbrae Chamber of Commerce welcomed its new board members for 2007:

Directors of the board: Wella Kuo of Bank of the Orient; Barry Ongerth of San Francisco Travelodge South; and Tedi Vriheas of AT&T.

Board members: Lisa Fitzgibbons Charney of Millbrae Jewelers; George Venezia of First National Bank of Northern California; Judy Clarke of Cashin Company Realtors; Gail DeAlba of El Rancho Inn & Suites; Thomas Lightner of Back to Motion Chiropractic; Paul Larson of Chapel of the Highlands; and Janet Fogarty of Fogarty & Zell, LLP; Antonio Maramonte, Community Member and Ed Weinstein of Millbrae Florist.

Museum on Millbrae Avenue, is responsible for preserving the town's local history as well as making it available to the community.

Founded in the early 1970s, the Millbrae Historical Society got its start by saving one of the few landmarks left in the town: the original Millbrae train station.

The organization also saved another historic landmark: the Spring Valley Water Company building, which later to become the San Francisco Water Department. The 1895-built house, located between Broadway and Magnolia Avenue, was slated for demolition, but was saved by the organization. The building was moved a half-mile from its original location, it was fully restored to its original as-built condition, and is currently the home to the Millbrae Museum. The museum is open Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. or by appointment. For more information, visit www.millbraehs.org or call (650) 333-1136.

SFSU ranks high in foundation's national college rating system

University is one of 76 schools that were recognized

Last month, San Francisco State University was among one of the first colleges and universities classified as "Community Engagement Institutions" by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. The university was one of 76 colleges and universities nationwide to receive the designation, and one of 62 such institutions awarded the classification in two categories: Curricular Engagement and Outreach and Partnership.

"San Francisco State is honored to be included in this important new classification, which recognizes the obligation of higher education to engage in community and civic affairs, for the betterment of society," SFSU President Robert A. Corrigan said.

"Our students and faculty, with tremendous support from the entire San Francisco Bay Area, continue to carry on the spirit of service in their personal and professional lives years after they graduate."

The Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education is the leading classification system used by researchers, policymakers, charitable foundations and magazines that rank colleges, including U.S. News and World Report. Unlike the Stanford-based foundation's other classifications that rely on national data, the new Community Engagement designation is an elective classification.

According to the foundation, SFSU was selected based on its commitment to "teaching, learning and scholarship which engage faculty, students and community in mutually beneficial and respectful collaboration."

Offering more than 300 courses that combine academic study with community involvement, the university was one of the first in the nation to include community volunteer work hours on student transcripts as part of coursework in 2004. During the 2005-2006 academic year, 8,463 students volunteered 332,348 hours in agencies and nonprofits throughout the San Francisco Bay Area.

In addition to the Carnegie designation, SFSU also received the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll Award in 2006 from the Corporation for National and Community Service. The university graduates more than 700 students a year.

For more information, visit www.sfsu.edu.

This year, the Millbrae Train Museum will be celebrating the 100th birthday of its original station.

— Courtesy of Millbrae Train Museum/ Daiv Golden



DANCE FEVER

FAMED TROUPES
TO PERFORM IN
BAY AREA » PAGE 13

WORLD: CASTRO 'BATTLING FOR HIS LIFE' » PAGE 13

ORWELL? NOT QUITE

CRIME CAMERA
DEBATE GETS
EVEN SILLIER
» KEN GARCIA
PAGE 5



COMMUNITY » KATHLEEN JAY

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Courtesy of Millbrae Train Museum/Dain Golden



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CHAPEL OF THE HIGHLANDS named Millbrae Business of the Year!

Millbrae, California – “CHAPEL OF THE HIGHLANDS Funeral and Cremation Care Professionals” received top honors on January 18, 2007 at a special awards dinner presented by the Millbrae Chamber of Commerce and the Millbrae Rotary Club. Local dignitaries and community leaders from the San Francisco Peninsula attended the evening’s smart festivities commencing at the El Rancho Palm Room in Millbrae. Paul Larson, President and second generation owner of the CHAPEL OF THE HIGHLANDS was in attendance with many of his colleagues, including Secretary/Treasurer Robert Lee; Directors Chris Alameda, Mark Putterbaugh, Jim Pappas, John Marty & his wife Jan; and guests Kimberly Shrum, and Penny & Eddie Shepherd.

The ceremony was opened with praiseful remarks from John Ford of the Millbrae Chamber of Commerce; Nancy Palmer & President Judy Clarke of the Millbrae Rotary Club; Councilman & Past Millbrae Mayor Robert Gottschalk; and Supervisor & Past San Mateo County Board President Mark Church, who all gave personal accolades and historical notations on the CHAPEL OF THE HIGHLANDS’ past accomplishments along with comments of high regard by the community as a whole.

After dinner, the CHAPEL OF THE HIGHLANDS was proclaimed Millbrae Business of the Year. Paul Larson was called forward by John Ford to receive the award which resulted in a standing ovation, along with thunderous applause which filled the room with a jubilant atmosphere. After being presented with a beautiful clear etched obelisk, Paul thanked the Millbrae Chamber and Millbrae Rotary stating that the Chapel being named Business of the Year was a great honor for him. He continued by thanking those families in the community who took the time to nominate the CHAPEL OF THE HIGHLANDS for Business of the Year. He then added that this award wouldn’t have been possible without his much appreciated staff who he thanked and asked to stand as he introduced them to the crowd. Paul was also presented with several other commendations from Mark Church of the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors; Carolyn Shea of the Millbrae School District; Millbrae Mayor Marc Hershman; and a resolution from California State Assemblyman Gene Mullin.

As the evening concluded, those in attendance commented on how proud they were of the CHAPEL OF THE HIGHLANDS, with the consensus being that this was a well deserved award. The one comment summing up the over-all feeling was “How lucky we are to have to have such a wonderful organization located in Millbrae.”

The CHAPEL OF THE HIGHLANDS was built and founded by H. Clarence Larson on October 5, 1952. A Little Falls, Minnesota native, Clarence moved west to the San Francisco Bay Area in 1941 and welded Liberty Ships in Richmond, California during World War II. While attending U.C. Berkeley Clarence met Mabel Silva and they were married in 1946. Due to his “pre-med” background at U.C. Berkeley, Clarence was approached by a co-worker at Tuttle Cheese Company in Oakland with the idea of building a much needed mortuary across the bay in Millbrae. He understood that this was a great opportunity, so he took the necessary steps and graduated from the San Francisco College of Mortuary Science. While serving his apprenticeship at Truman’s Mortuary in Oakland, he mustered together the funds to purchase a lot as part of an area being developed in Millbrae and built the CHAPEL OF THE HIGHLANDS. Clarence operated and expanded his Millbrae facility several times over the years and was recognized, not only for being the person to turn to when there was a death in the family, but also known as a big character and jokester in the Millbrae Lions Club and the many other service clubs he was a member of. His son Paul had grown up with the business and took over as President after Clarence’s passing in 1999. Since then, Paul has promoted the CHAPEL OF THE HIGHLANDS as a place for those in the community to rely on, and he is also following in his father’s footsteps as a very active member and upcoming President of the Millbrae Lions Club; Immediate Past Chairman of the Millbrae Chamber of Commerce; and a life member of the Millbrae Historical Society.

“Being a small family owned and operated Funeral Chapel we have a responsibility to uphold our reputation and continue to give back to the community by serving every family as if they were our own.” Larson said.

“Our CHAPEL OF THE HIGHLANDS has been here for the past 55 years, and it will be an honor to serve the San Francisco Peninsula during the upcoming 55 years and beyond”...“Our location at the corner of El Camino Real and Millwood Drive has become a landmark”...“I’m proud of our staff, facilities, landscaping and automotive equipment, all of which we receive regular complements on” were some of the many positive comments Paul Larson expressed.

Since the Millbrae Business of the Year is a relatively new award it has been presented to just a handful of Millbrae businesses and for the CHAPEL OF THE HIGHLANDS to receive this honor so early in the award's existence is a testimony to how much they stand out among all other businesses in their community.

For more information on the Millbrae Business of the Year Award, visit www.millbrae.com, and for more information about the CHAPEL OF THE HIGHLANDS, including historical newspaper clippings, visit www.chapelofthehighlands.com.