

# GALA

## Sharing Culture, Enriching Lives

The annual Gala to benefit the Friends of Marin Center is more than a fundraiser. Each year we join together with one of the many diverse community groups in Marin to create a cultural celebration. In 2000 we worked with the Bay Area African-American community to create a Gala featuring the Boys Choir of Harlem. The following year we joined with the local Native-American community and our Gala featured the American Indian Dance Theatre. In 2002, with the performance of the Girls Choir of Harlem, our theme was "May Her Voice Be Heard... Honoring Girls and the Women They Become." We focused our outreach that year on organizations that benefit girls and we connected with women-run businesses.

This year we are working together with the Marin Chinese Cultural Association to create a Gala on October 4 that celebrates the rich cultural heritage of our local Chinese-American community. The main event is the exciting performance of the Shaolin Warriors. The Marin Chinese Cultural Association Lion Dance team will begin the festivities by welcoming everyone as they arrive. So come early and enjoy the pre-show!



Come early to the Gala and receive the blessings of luck and prosperity from the Lion Dance team of the Marin Chinese Cultural Association.



Ming Chan, world-renowned calligrapher, will demonstrate his big character writing skills for Gold Circle ticket holders following the performance.

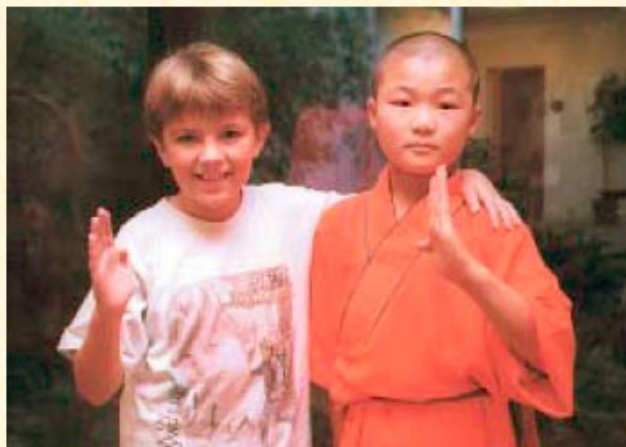
Following the performance Gold Circle ticket holders are invited to meet the Shaolin Warriors in person and enjoy an Asian culinary adventure showcasing the geographic and cultural diversity of the cuisine. The excitement continues as artist/calligrapher Ming Chan creates

two large-scale Chinese symbols of peace, which will then be auctioned.

So, yes, the FOMC Gala Benefit is much more than a fundraiser. When we bring together the whole Marin community to experience the artistic and culinary riches of our diverse heritages, it is a celebration indeed. Won't you join us?

And remember the generosity of our sponsors in funding the good works of FOMC when you make consumer choices. They are: **Marin Community Foundation, Marin Independent Journal, Poor Ann's Press, The Marco A. Vidal Fund, Autodesk, RAB Motors, Barnes-Sankin Fund, Frank Howard Allen Realtors Fund, Portal Publications LTD, Jim Farley, An Affair to Remember, Canton II, Yet Wah, Peking Palace, Lyla's Chocolates of Mill Valley, Windsor Winery, and Grace Garden Court.**

## Welcoming Our Peaceful Warriors



A young Shaolin Warrior and "MJ" Jobrack-Sweeney have a friendly cultural exchange at a Marin Center Presents performance in 2001.

**The Shaolin Warriors** provide something much more profound than just an exciting evening's entertainment, with their dazzling feats of martial art. They offer an inspiring demonstration of the Buddhist practice of awareness and the unlimited possibilities of humans to rise to any challenge. Their early predecessors, the first monks of the Songshan Shaolin Temple in battle-torn feudal China needed to protect themselves, so they developed a walking meditation system based on their observations of the movements of the animals that lived near the monastery. A thousand years later, today's Warriors continue the deep spiritual and demanding physical tradition, as they perform their amazing feats in a state of meditation. The Shaolin Warriors are quite deservedly considered one of China's national treasures. Gold Circle ticket holders will meet the performers at a catered reception after the performance. This is always a sell-out event, so be sure to get your tickets now.