

Mt. Diablo: A Personal View

Photography by Sue Reynolds

For those of us who live in the East Bay, Mt. Diablo is always a looming presence, visible from many vantage points, always reminding us of its majesty, stunning views, and rich history.

For photojournalist Sue Reynolds, it is a home away from home. She grew up, literally, at the foot of Mt. Diablo and has spent many years hiking there with family and friends. "Mt. Diablo is so close to me," Reynolds said from her Walnut Creek home with views of her favorite mountain. "I feel very rooted in this landscape. I look at that mountain and think of the stories my father and grandfather told me about riding from their ranch here to the mountain."

So it's not surprising that the mountain called on her to capture its natural beauty.

"It's my way of celebrating that beauty. With my photography it's a way to share the magic I see," she added. "It's my way of celebrating that beauty... I think of my landscape work as a way to give back to my community by inspiring people. We are all part of nature and we are connected."

Tri Valley Magazine Editor Marcia Parker caught up with Reynolds just before she headed to Montana, where she is photographing landscapes and Native American celebrations. Here are several of her powerful images of Mt. Diablo, some of which will be on display as part of a new exhibit at the Lindsay Wildlife Museum in Walnut Creek starting Sept. 15. Her show will be paired with the California Indian Artifact Exhibit. Enjoy!

"Almost every Californian has seen Monte Diablo. It is the great central landmark of the state. Whether we are walking in the streets of San Francisco, or sailing on any of our bays and navigable rivers, or riding on any of the roads in the Sacramento and San Joaquin Valleys, or standing on the elevated ridges of the mining districts before us – in lonely boldness, and almost every turn, we see Monte Diablo."

J.M. Hutchings, from *Scenes of Wonder and Curiosity in California*, 1860







About Sue Reynolds

Books: "Revealing Nature's Mysteries," a collection of landscape photography from throughout the western U.S. that includes images from the Mt. Diablo show. Coming this fall: a new book called "Powwows and Indians" that celebrates contemporary native culture with recent images from powwows across the West.

Shows: Debut solo show in 2002. In April 2004, she gained her first international recognition with exhibits in art galleries in Yokohama and Tokyo, Japan. In addition to solo shows in Clayton and Walnut Creek, Reynolds has exhibited at galleries in the East Bay.

Education: Studied with Rocky Mountain School of Photography in Missoula, Mont. She holds a B.A. in Art History from the University of California, Davis, and an M.B.A. from San Francisco State University.

Website: See Reynolds' photography, teaching and event schedule at www.susanreynoldsp photography.com.



