

GOOD GUYS

Our Second Annual Salute
to People We Loved in 2006

PHOTOGRAPHY BY KELLI ULDALL

Call it nobility. Call it being an example.
Call it courage. Call it decency. Call it altruism,
benevolence and charity.

We'll call them Good Guys.

The Monterey Peninsula's long arm never ceases to amaze. We are a small place that belongs to the world. But this issue, we'd like to turn the lens inward and focus on some local folks we hold in high esteem. Perhaps after reading this you'll hold them there, too.

We view the ten people profiled on the following pages as exemplifying our region's true currency: its inner beauty. These are not the "heroes" you often read about — those who, for example, might stage "a heroic comeback" on Pebble's back nine. They are flesh-and-blood world changers, which makes their contributions all the more inspiring.



The Visionary
FRAN SPECTOR ATKINS

Founder, SpectorDance

When Fran Spector Atkins speaks about dance, you can feel her excitement; sense her devotion. Just witness the movement in the flash of her bright hazel eyes, the warmth of her broad smile, the fluid gesture of a graceful hand. As she dances, realize that "all the world's a stage," and we, her audience, will be better for it. Founder and creator of SpectorDance, Atkins established the company in 1997. She opened her expansive Marina studio five years ago to heighten awareness of dance as a vital contemporary art form through outreach, education and performance. "Dance," she says, "expresses the human experience in a unique way. It's an important force for positive change and growth as a community." Atkins' choreographic approach incorporates a digital process for blending dance with music, recorded text and projected visual images. Her projects are often driven by social concerns, including her recent work, "Common Ground," which she says looks at the current tensions in local agriculture, including immigration, land development, environmental issues and new realities of competing in a world market.

— By Lisa Crawford Watson