

THE ORINDA NEWS

Gratis
Volume 25, Number 11

The Orinda Association, Publisher
Delivered to 9,000 Households and Businesses in Orinda

12 Issues Annually
November 2010

Forums Give Voters Info on School Board and City Council Candidates



SALLY HOGARTY

School Board candidates took part in an October 7 forum at Glorietta School. (L-R) **Chris Severson, Tyson Krumholz, Bekki Van Voorhis-Gilbert, Sarah Butler, and Julie Rossiter.**

By SALLY HOGARTY
Editor

On November 2, Orinda voters will decide a number of local contests. The Board of Trustees for the Orinda Union School District has three openings with none of the incumbents seeking reelection, the Orinda City Council also has three openings with a total of five, including three incumbents, vying for the positions, and the Moraga Orinda Fire District has one contested position.

In an effort to present as much information as possible to Orinda voters, forums were held for School Board and City Council candidates. The League of Women Voters of Diablo Valley moderated both. In addition, *The Orinda News* asked the candidates a series of questions that were published in the October issue (available at www.orindanews.org).

On October 7, the five school board candidates – Sarah Butler, Tyson Krumholz, Julie Rossiter, Chris Severson, and Bekki Van Voorhis-Gilbert – answered questions from the large audience gathered at Glorietta Elementary School’s multi-purpose auditorium. The forum was sponsored by

the Orinda Education Association and the Orinda Association. Ashley Coates from the League of Women Voters moderated. Questions included the candidates’ position on small class sizes, how teachers should be involved in decisions, how teachers should be evaluated, whether board meetings should be moved from 4 to 6 p.m. so more community members can attend, how to deal with harassment among students, and whether budget cuts should be for a particular program or across the board. A total of 12 questions were asked during the 90-minute forum.

The five candidates bring a wide variety of backgrounds to the school board race. Krumholz feels his project management and building experience will be beneficial in dealing with the development of the Pine Grove property and the district’s aging school facilities while Severson, an emergency medicine physician, believes his experience as a student in Orinda schools and now as a parent of four children attending local schools gives him an important perspective as a board member. Van Voorhis-Gilbert, who has worked as a lawyer as well as a college professor, received a round of applause from the audience when



SALLY HOGARTY

City Council candidates discussed their views at an October 13 forum at the Orinda Library Auditorium. (far left) League of Women Voters moderator **Sharon Burke** (L-R) **Amy Worth, Dean Orr, Sue Severson, Tom McCormick, and Scott Zeller.**

she voiced her disapproval of OUSD staff members receiving bonuses when cuts were being made in the classroom. Trained as an environmental planner, Butler has extensive experience volunteering for Orinda schools

and believes the district needs to look at how to run more efficiently before making future cuts or asking for another parcel tax. Finally, Rossiter, an attorney with business [SEE ELECTIONS page 20]

Wilder Development Shows Off Progress

by DAVID DIERKS
Staff Writer

Orinda residents were invited to see the progress on the Quarry House Recreation Center on September 25. According to Wilder spokesperson Jason Keanjian, “most developers would wait until the model homes were completed before inviting the public in, but because the project has been going on for 30 years, Wilder wanted to bring the public in and show them that progress was being made.”

Tours started at the Ranch House, where a model of the development is on display. The Ranch House will be donated to the City of Orinda upon the projects completion.

Orindans in attendance had many questions about the development including how the needs of school-age children will be addressed. Miramonte High School and Orinda Intermediate School (OIS) will have dedicated bus service to Wilder. Younger students will be enrolled in one of Orinda’s four elementary schools – the exact school

will be determined by the number of students coming from Wilder and the enrollment at the various elementary schools at that time.

Vehicular access to Wilder will be limited [SEE WILDER page 20]

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November's Tiger in Training



PATRICIA ENGLAND

Fritz was rescued dirty, wet and exhausted from a mud puddle in a parking lot. After a trip to a veterinarian, where his only injuries were his tail broken in three places, he was adopted by Charlotte Meyer, founder of Orinda Starlight Village Players, and is happily thriving in her Orinda home.

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ORINDA ASSOCIATION

A Message From the OA President
Aging Gracefully in Orinda



Mark Roberts

When Claire and I moved to Orinda in 1993, we were like many other young families who found this community attractive for many reasons: great schools (even though we didn't have children), convenient location, scenic beauty, and predominantly single-family homes on large lots. We still appreciate these qualities associated with living in Orinda. But as I head into my mid-fifties, I'm beginning to wonder how I'll feel about that last reason I cited 20 or so years from now.

When I finally decided recently to have a pain I'd been living with for more than a year diagnosed, I learned that I have moderately advanced arthritis in my right hip. It doesn't affect my mobility all that much (yet), but I do feel it sometimes when I'm gardening or doing yard work on my large lot. Don't get me wrong: I love doing this work. Realistically, however, I realize I may have to cut back down the road, even though I'm working with a personal trainer three times a week to maintain and enhance strength, flexibility and balance, i.e. mobility.

Twenty years from now, I hope that Claire and I are still active and contributing members of the community. I just don't know if we'll still want to live in our current house and have to deal with all the maintenance issues associated with the structure and landscaping. Yes, I could hire someone to take care of the garden and yard, but I don't think I'd be happy giving up control and not getting my hands dirty. I'm quite sure I don't want to move to a seniors-only community like Rossmoor. It's a great option for people seeking that environment, but I know I'd miss the energy of living in a family-oriented community.

Maybe that's the catch we have to recognize. Orinda was built out primarily in the 1950s and 60s as a great place to raise families. It was, is and always will be. But let's face it: the big homes, large lots, privacy, lightly traveled streets and cul de sacs far from shopping areas and congestion we find so attractive when we're raising children may well lose their luster

when we're empty nesters or, later, when we can no longer drive ourselves. (Kudos to the volunteer drivers of Seniors Around Town who currently so capably address that latter issue.)

At this point, I'm close to wading into the controversy about downtown planning. That's not my intention. I just want to suggest that there may be a substantial number of Orinda residents who, when they stop to think about it, may like the idea of different types of housing in our community, including some closer to our business districts. They may not need or want it now, but they will want to have the option available to them in the future – especially if the only other option is to move out of Orinda.

The current Senior Village and the proposed new facility on the site of the old library serve a very useful purpose – but most current Orinda residents exceed the income and asset limits required to live there. The Pine Grove development may provide an option once that project actually breaks ground.

I love the charm and village character of our downtown areas as much as anyone. But I also love the idea of making it possible for people to live there or nearby – especially long-time Orindans who don't want to or can no longer live in more remotely located single-family homes.

Seniors are an important component of the Orinda family. We need to respect them and recognize that we are inevitably following in their footsteps. By thinking NOW about how we can help them age gracefully in Orinda, we'll all be able to enjoy the same benefit when our time comes.

Nominations Being Accepted

The Orinda Association is currently accepting nominations for the 2010 Volunteer of the Year and the 2010 William Penn Mott, Jr. Environmental Award winner. Please send your nominations to Orinda Association, P.O. Box 97, Orinda, CA 94563 or email to oa@orindaassociation.org.

The Orinda Association

The Orinda Association is a nonprofit corporation dedicated to:

- Maintaining and improving the quality of life in Orinda;
- Promoting awareness and discussion of issues that are important to the community;
- Encouraging and recognizing volunteer efforts to enhance the beauty, character, and security of Orinda.

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Our membership drive is in full swing, and we hope you will renew your membership or if you are not currently a member, that you will join. Thanks to your support, we are able to provide the following to the community:

- The Orinda News
- The Volunteer Center
- Seniors Around Town, a transportation service for local seniors
- The Volunteer of the Year Award
- The William Penn Mott, Jr. Environmental Award
- The 4th of July Parade and Celebration
- Important Forums and Debates

Join us and help make a difference! A membership envelope is enclosed in this issue of the paper or visit our website at www.orindaassociation.org. Thank you!

The OA is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization and your membership donation is tax deductible to the extent of the law. THANKS for your support!



Correction -- Wrong Way to Wear Helmet



In the October issue, we incorrectly captioned the above photo as the correct way to wear a bike helmet. In fact, Kelsey Viadro is demonstrating the incorrect way where the helmet is back too far exposing the front of the skull and frontal lobe of the brain.

CORRECTION: In the article entitled "Eighty-Year-Old Local Hero & Dynamo Mother-Daughter Team on YouTube" in the September issue, the website was incorrectly listed. The correct listing is www.thegreenbuddha.net.

Letters to the Editor

Bob Jungbluth for Fire District Board

It's time for a change. The Moraga-Orinda Fire District has been in place since 1997, and many of the current board members have been involved since that time. It became apparent to me that, as voters, we have not paid enough attention to this board when late last year I read about our former fire chief's pension plan in the *Wall Street Journal*. Like many of you, I was shocked at how generous the board had been with our tax dollars. In these uncertain times, we need someone who is willing to make tough economic decisions to protect our fire district and our tax dollars. We are fortunate that Bob Jungbluth is challenging an incumbent for a seat on that board.

I served with Bob on the Orinda Planning Commission. I know he makes informed decisions and is fair to both the needs of the applicant and the community. He has played a substantial role in streamlining the planning process so that it is easier and more user-friendly for our residents. Most importantly, I know him to respect the economic circumstances of both the applicant and the community, and he is diligent in trying to minimize financial impacts on both.

I believe Bob's awareness of these key issues, and his ability to communicate clearly with staff, applicants and residents, qualifies him to serve on the MOFD board. I hope you will join me in supporting Bob Jungbluth for MOFD.

– Richard Westin

Jungbluth a Needed Change

I am supporting Bob Jungbluth for MOFD Board of Directors. While we receive very good emergency services from MOFD, Orindans need a representative that has our interests at heart. We need change.

When the Moraga-Orinda Fire Department (MOFD) was formed 13 years ago, 30 percent of Orinda's fire hydrants were substandard. Nothing's changed.

Prior to the formation of MOFD, Orinda's representative John Wyro stated that a portion of our parcel tax would be used to improve water flow to our substandard hydrants if possible, after seismic issues on fire stations were addressed.

Today, after \$2.6 million dollars has been collected from Orinda's parcel taxes for MOFD, and \$400,000 has been spent on seismic retrofitting of the stations, not one cent has been spent on Orinda's substandard hydrants.

Bob Jungbluth will represent Orinda's interests in MOFD, and will not allow this problem to continue to be ignored.

– Diana Stephens

Committed to Keeping High Quality

Chris Severson is an Orinda native who is passionate about Orinda and its schools. He greatly appreciates the excellent education he received here and is committed to keeping the quality of education high for all current and future Orinda students. Chris will work hard to use our limited resources efficiently and to keep class sizes small. Chris served as Chairman of the Orinda Family Science night in 2008 and has worked on numerous school fund raising projects to bring in additional funds to supplement the schools. Chris will bring great energy, intelligence and collaboration to the difficult task of navigating our schools through the upcoming challenges. In these difficult times, we need leaders like Chris who will listen to the community and work with all stakeholders to come up with the very best solutions for our children.

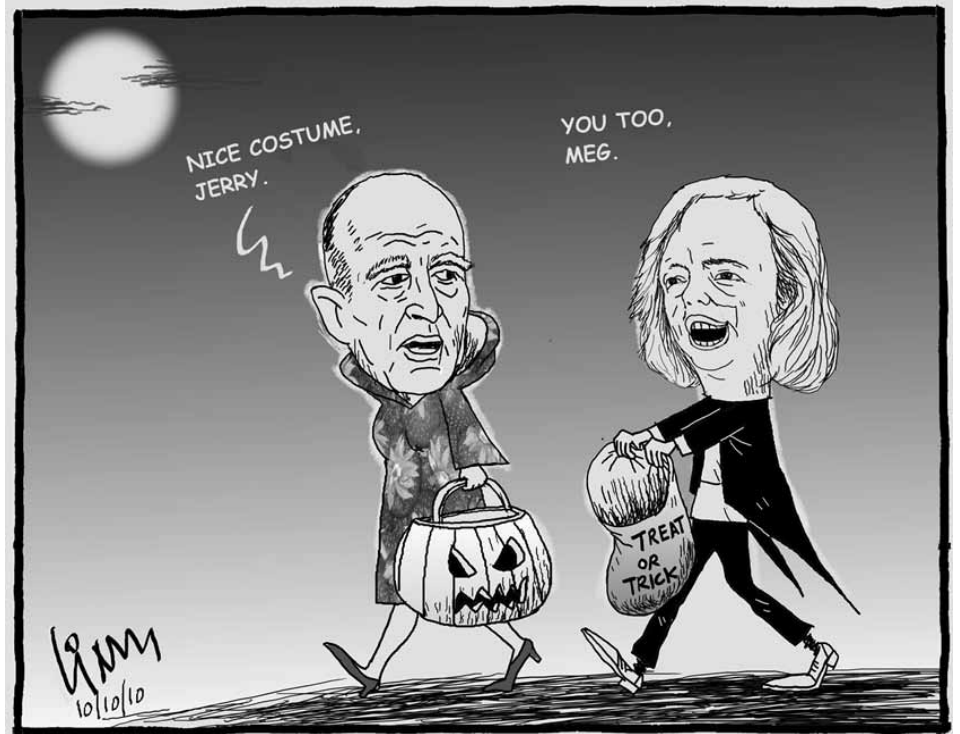
Please join us in supporting Chris Severson for Orinda School Board.

– Rick & Nancy Booth

Rossiter an Excellent Choice

I have known Julie Rossiter in a variety of capacities for more than five years. She has been associated with my daughters' swimming teams and schools. In addition, she has been instrumental in solving school issues. She worked extremely hard on the passage of Measure A, volunteered with the Del Rey Annual Fund Committee, and is currently the Del Rey legislative representative to the Las Trampas Creek Council.

Julie is organized, efficient, extremely competent (did I mention she has a law degree?), and has an excellent rapport with all of the people she has worked with. Her communication skills, both verbal and



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written, are excellent. Her best asset may be her ability to cross the divide, and work with those with differing opinions to come

to an amicable solution that will benefit the whole rather than the extreme.

[SEE LETTERS page 12]

The Orinda News prints 9,000 copies and is published 12 times a year by The Orinda Association. The office is located at 26 Orinda Way (lower level of the Library). All rights reserved. The publication is sent out by direct mail (Permit #4, Orinda Post Office) and distributed to key locations throughout the city.

Editor..... Sally Hogarty
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 Printing.....Folger Graphics

The Orinda News

A Publication of
 The Orinda Association
 Mailing Address
 P.O. Box 97
 Orinda, California 94563
 Telephone: 925 254-0800
 Fax: 925 254-8312
www.orindanews.org



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Letters to the Editor are printed on a space-available basis and should be no longer than 400 words. They must include the writer's first and last name, signature and telephone number.

Send letters to: Editor, *The Orinda News*, P.O. Box 97, Orinda, CA 94563, fax them to 254-8312, or email to news@orindaassociation.org. Letters to the Editor for the December issue are due November 5, 2009.

For display advertising rates, call Jill Gelster at 925-528-9225 or email to jill@aspenconsult.net. The deadline for the January issue is November 16, 2010.

ORINDA MOTORS

Orinda Motors Gives Back to the Community With Classic Style

By SALLY HOGARTY
Editor

Once again the annual Classic Car Show, organized by the dynamic duo of Chip and Carolyn Herman, raised a tidy sum for local nonprofit organizations. By the time the last car had rolled down Orinda Way in the closing parade, over \$30,000 had been raised between the September 25 car show and the Dancing With the Cars fundraiser the evening before. Benefiting from this year's event are the Orinda As-



BILL CARMEL

Chip Herman helps Rachele Nysson out of a 1957 Chevrolet Bel Air on display at Orinda Motors during the Dancing With the Cars dinner/dance.

sociation's Seniors Around Town program (\$8,500), the Educational Foundation of Orinda (\$17,500), the Orinda Historical Society (\$3,000), and Campolindo High School auto shop (\$1,000).

While the excitement of Friday night's Dancing With the Cars dinner/dance and Saturday's car show were certainly evident, what wasn't so obvious was that Orinda



BILL CARMEL

Living Lean's Sheena Lakjotia and Wendy Nieto admire a 1966 Shelby Cobra 427 at Dancing With the Cars.



DAVID DIERKS

White was a popular color for these Jaguar XK120 seen at the Orinda Classic Car Show.

Motors (OM) had to virtually close down its business in order to accommodate the two events at its building and surrounding streets. While OM owner Allen Pennebaker won't say exactly how much money his business lost during the approximately two-



DAVID DIERKS

This 1956 Buick Super was an eye-stopper.

day closure, the amounts are significant. Giving back to the local community is nothing new to OM, which has been servicing residents' automobiles since the 1920s. The company routinely gives to local schools, sports associations, and a wide variety of nonprofits. OM, like many local businesses, believes in supporting its local community. The Orinda community is fortunate to have businesses such as OM that, even in this challenging economy, find a way to help local organizations.

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Random CIO Thoughts

By Evan Corstorphine
Portable CIO

We recently configured a new computer for a customer. He bought a fast, well-configured computer. It was a very nice system, and he spent a lot for it. Then, we were instructed to install a free version of an off-brand antivirus on the computer, and the malware product was declined. Why would you buy a Ferrari, and then put retread tires on the car? It's not that it won't work with the free product; it'll roll along. It's about being penny-wise and pound-foolish by not protecting your investment with inexpensive but effective tools. The money he wasn't willing to put into protection, he'll pay double in repairs. Hardware is expensive, but pound for pound, your mechanic's time is even more expensive. When you get a virus or the operating system gets screwed up, even right after you bought it, it will not be under warranty. We recommend the paid version of AVG Antivirus, and Malwarebytes anti-malware. Our customers who use these products together will still get viruses knocking on the door, but they usually won't get in and ruin the computer.

Last month was a new-toy month for me. First, I upgraded to the new iPhone, and I then traded in an Apple iTunes certificate for a new iPad. Forget what the critics say about the iPad - this thing is way cool. I think "pad computing" is the wave of the future, and this product is blazing a trail, and we don't know where it will lead us. My usage consists of email, web-surfing, research, reading books, playing games, and watching movies. It's smaller than my laptop but bigger than my telephone. One of my employees noted that the iPad is the

perfect device for the kitchen table; small, convenient, sexy and it can pull off these functions where a laptop just wouldn't cut it.

Many of our customers' email accounts have been hacked lately. The hackers send thousands of SPAM messages from their accounts. Primarily it's been accounts on Yahoo and AOL, but other domains have been experiencing the problem too. The problem is that y'all are using easy passwords, and the hackers have automated programs to try one after another until they guess it.

You must complicate your password to protect yourself. Examples: Password = P@\$\$w0rd, Flower = F10w3R. Or, use a short phrase: B33r10v3r. (beer lover), or 5p@m5uck5. (spam sucks). You get the idea. Some systems won't let you use symbols, so you should use more caps and numbers. And this is one area where size matters; the longer the better! So use at least eight characters, but using 10 is many times better. The bad guys can try thousands of passwords in a few minutes, so all the easy ones get tried first. The hints above increase the complexity of cracking your password by orders of magnitude, making your account not worth the trouble to hack.

Windows XP is officially reaching End of Life (EOL) with Microsoft this month. What this means is that you won't be able to buy a new copy of the software or a system with XP preinstalled. Microsoft plans to support Windows XP through April 2014, so if your system is still chugging along, you shouldn't have to make any changes.

For more thoughts about your computing environment, call Portable CIO at 925-552-7953 or email us at helpdesk@theportablecio.com.



POLICE BLOTTER

September 2010

Alarms - False Residential: Officers responded to 86 false alarm calls throughout the city.

Burglary - Auto: 2 incidents were reported on Orinda Way and Sleepy Hollow Ln.

Burglary - Commercial: 2 incidents were reported on Brookwood Rd. and Orinda Way.

Burglary - Residential: 3 incidents were on Ravenhill Rd., Mira Loma and California Ave.

Domestic Violence - Injury of Spouse: 1 incident was reported.

Grand Theft - From Vehicle: 2 incidents were reported on Oak Rd. and Hillcrest Dr.

Grand Theft - All Other: 3 incidents were reported on Glorietta Blvd., Moraga Way and Valley Dr.

Petty Theft - From Vehicle: 4 incidents were reported on Oak Rd., Don Gabriel Way, Hillcrest Dr. and Camino Sobrante.

Petty Theft - All Other: 3 incidents were reported on Moraga Way, Crescent

Dr. and Hillcrest Dr.

Arrests

Burglary - Commercial: 1 arrest was made on Orinda Way.

Domestic Violence - Injury of Spouse: 1 arrest was made.

Driving Under the Influence - Misd < .08: 3 arrests were made on Camino Pablo/WB Hwy 24, Brookwood Rd./Camino Pablo and Moraga Way.

Drugs - Possession: 1 arrest was made on Brookwood Rd./Moraga Way.

Drugs - Under Influence: 1 arrest was made on Tahos Rd./Wanda Ln.

Drunk in Public: 1 arrest was made on Bart Tk/Camino Pablo.

Recovered Stolen Vehicle: 1 incident was reported on Orinda Way.

Warrant Arrest: 6 arrests were made on Theatre Sq, Camino Pablo/Hwy 24 on WB, Moraga Way, Moraga Way/Overhill Rd., Moraga Way/Stein Way & Camino Pablo.

- Compiled by Jeanette Irving,
Orinda Police Department

St. Mark's Methodist Church Led by New Minister

By RUTH MCGOUGH
Contributing Writer

Reverend Ronald Edward Swisher has been appointed the new pastor of St. Mark's Methodist Church, which is celebrating its 50th anniversary in the Orinda-Moraga area.

Rev. Swisher, who is entering his 38th year in the ministry, was formerly senior pastor at Taylor Memorial United Methodist Church in Oakland, the church in which he grew up. He previously served as minister of congregational life at Glide Memorial United Methodist Church in San Francisco and was district superintendent of Delta District of the Northern California/Nevada United Methodist Church.

A native of Oakland, Rev. Swisher is known for his thought-provoking sermons, delivered with humor. Collections of his sermons have been printed in three books, *And You Thought You Were Catching Hell*, *Eat the Book*, and *The Strange Case*. Rev. Swisher, himself an avid reader of more than 100 books a year, is also the author of several articles, including "Forgive, But Don't Forget" which appears in the book *Reflections on Forgiveness and Spiritual Growth*.

In addition, Rev. Swisher serves as a co-host of *Mosaic*, the longest running religious television program in the Bay



SALLY HOGARTY
Reverend Ronald Swisher is the new pastor at St. Mark's.

Area (first aired in 1979). The show is seen each Sunday at 5 a.m. on KPIX-TV, Channel 5. He shares hosting duties on the second Sunday of each month with the show's long-time host, the Reverend Dr. Hugh Burroughs.

"My calling and purpose is the same as our congregation, reaching out to the least, the last and the left out in our society," Rev. Swisher said. "By preaching the Gospel of Good News, people's lives can be transformed, healed and made whole. Hopefully this will make for a better community and world."

Regular Sunday Services are held at St. Mark's Church at 10:30 a.m. at the church located at 451 Moraga Way, Orinda.

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"Happy Holidays" from Linda, Michele, Patty, Michelle, & Brooke



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ORINDA SILVER CELEBRATION

Orinda Silver Celebration a Great Success!

By DAVID DIERKS
Staff Writer

On Saturday, October 2, at the Orinda Library Gallery, the Orinda Community Foundation celebrated the 25th Anniversary of the incorporation of Orinda. Many pieces of art were exhibited at the fundraiser, with proceeds benefiting the foundation. About 10 works of art were sold as well as many items of jewelry.

The inspiration of Sue Severson, the Community Foundation was formed in February of this year with the purpose of supporting community events, programs, projects, visual and performing arts, and community related partnerships in and

around Orinda. Bill Cosden said, "There was a half million dollar deficit that had to be cut out of the Orinda budget. The Orinda Community Foundation is filling the void left by the budget cuts."

Musical entertainment was coordinated by Nancy Loomba and performed by the Contra Costa Chamber Orchestra (CCCO). The CCCO Brass Trio (Louis Olds, Bob Satterford, Alan Andreasen) started the evening off, followed by the Cello and String Ensemble (Ariel Witbeck, Shirley Campbell, Joyce Anderson). Violinist Gill Gleason strolled about the gallery as well. Later, Joffria Whitfield played harp, clarinet, saxophone and violin to an appreciative audience.

Many of the artists were on hand to answer questions about their work, including Zarmine Agahzrain, Rob Becker, Pat Dahlberg, Carmel Dewies, Robert Dun, George Eهرانhaff, Rob Foss, Andrew Grupe, Mayette Ignacio, Susan Kendall, Allison McCrady, Adrienne Rogers, Maria SantoStephano, Mary Spain and Bill Stout.

There were silent auctions for a Cal themed quilt created and donated by Margaret Zucker and for a wine basket. There was also a raffle for a pendant designed for Tiffany valued at \$425. City Councilmember Amy Worth won the quilt. "My husband, who is the ultimate 5th generation Cal fan, is having his 60th birthday on November 12, so don't tell him that I have his present," she said. Margaret Baltodano won the wine basket. A very lucky John Weller won the pendant with the purchase of only three raffle tickets.

Local Orindan, Dianna Condon, provided the catering. "She did an amazing job," said Allison McCrady. "The food was terrific and disappeared fast." Republic of Cake donated the delicious cupcakes.

Sponsors of the event included Bever-



BILL CARMEL

(L-R) Dick Heggie (UCB grad and Orinda's first mayor), Pat Dunn, and quilt artist Margaret Weil Zucker share Cal Berkeley memories. City Councilmember Amy Worth won the quilt in the auction.



DAVID DIERKS

Joffria Whitfield played harp while participants enjoyed the art and good food.

ages & More, the City of Orinda, Dianna Davis Condon, Joan and Dick Coust, Rob

Foss, April Matthews (Village Associates), [SEE CELEBRATION page 26]

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"Dean brings a practical and positive approach to bring people together to solve community issues, and his goal is always to improve the quality of life for our kids, seniors and families."
Victoria Smith,
Vice Mayor of Orinda

"Dean is passionate about our schools, our environment and our civic life. We have all benefited from his enormous contribution to making Orinda such a special community."
Steve Glazer, Orinda City Council Member

"Dean's enthusiasm for our community is tremendous and he is committed to supporting our schools at every level. I welcome his collaborative nature and sound judgment to the City Council"
Clare McDonald, 2009-2011 Orinda Intermediate School Parents Club Co-President

"I was so impressed with Dean's work on the Planning Commission with the Pulte project. He is clearly knowledgeable, pragmatic, results oriented, and collaborative—great qualities for a council member—I'm thrilled he's running this year!"
Riki Sorenson, Orinda Union School Board Member

Selected Endorsements Include:

Elected Officials

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Vice Mayor of Orinda
- Dick Heggie**
Former Mayor of Orinda and Citizen of the Year
- Joyce Hawkins**
Former Mayor of Orinda and Citizen of the Year
- Bill Judge**
Former Mayor of Orinda and Citizen of the Year
- Bobbie Landers**
Former Mayor of Orinda and Citizen of the Year
- Allan Tabor**
Former Mayor of Orinda
- Laura Abrams**
Former Mayor of Orinda
- Gregg Wheatland**
Former Mayor of Orinda
- Matt Moran**
Orinda Union School District Board Member
- Pat Rudebusch**
Orinda Union School District Board Member
- Riki Sorenson**
Orinda Union School District Board Member
- Jean Lyford**
Former Orinda Union School District Board Member

- Brook Mancinelli**
Moraga Orinda Fire District Board Member
- John Wyro**
Moraga Orinda Fire District Board Member
- Dr. Gene Gottfried**
Former Moraga Orinda Fire District Board Member and Volunteer of the Year
- Peter Wilson**
Former Moraga Orinda Fire District Board Member and Volunteer of the Year

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Educational Foundation of Orinda Board President
- Paul Hollerbach**
Educational Foundation of Orinda Board Representative
- Tricia Young**
Wagner Ranch Parents Club Board Member
- Carrie Smith**
Wagner Ranch Parents Club Board Member
- Megan Cohen**
Wagner Ranch Parents Club Board Member
- Alissa Lillie**
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Sleepy Hollow Parents Club Board Member
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- Lynn Molloy**
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- Shannon Fuller**
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Orinda Parks and Recreation Commission Member and Volunteer of the Year
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- Todd Berryhill**
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- Terry Murphy**
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- Kim Coleman**
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- Shirley Wheatland**
- Doug Whitsitt**
- Amelia Wilson**
Volunteer of the Year
- Tom & Carole Wolfman**
- Bret Young**

Organizations

- Democratic Party of Contra Costa County
- Lamorinda Democratic Club

SEASONAL SHOPPER/HILTON HOUSE



Seasoned Shopper
Bunch Month



BARBARA KOBSAR

This month is “bunch” month. It seems like more produce arrives in bunches at the farmers’ market than any other time of the year. The different colored chards are striking, and the turnips, beets, carrots and kohlrabi remind me it’s roasted root vegetable time. And if you look further, you’ll find bunches of kale, dandelion greens, parsley, red onion and probably a little fennel as well.



BARBARA KOBSAR

Produce, such as beans, beets, carrots, arrives in bunches this month.

Chard is one of my refrigerator staples, always ready to use on its own or to toss into soups, salads and pastas. The dark green ruffled leaves are similar to spinach and cook like spinach but chewier and slightly more bitter. Chard, like many leafy green vegetables, is rich in calcium, iron, vitamins A and C, folate and dietary fiber.

The stems or leaf stalks of Swiss chard are a home gardener’s delight with colors of white, red and yellow to brighten up the patch. They also make an eye-catching

display stacked up at the Ledesma Farm stand at the market!

I like to use very tender chard leaves with other greens in salads, but I usually resort to using them in a quick sauté with olive oil and garlic. It’s a good idea to separate the stalk from the leaves and add the stalks to the pan first – they take a few minutes longer to cook than the leaves.

California’s fresh harvest of turnips and rutabagas entice a few more fans like me every fall and winter. These look alike cousins are at their best when small and young, before the strong taste and coarse texture develops. A light frost before harvest can actually begin to change some of the stored starch to sugar, making them slightly sweeter.

Both are globe-shaped, but turnips are generally smaller than rutabagas and milder tasting because of a higher water content. Another distinguishing feature between the two is in the leaves (yes, they’re edible). The turnip’s somewhat rough, hairy and deeply lobed leaves are attached directly to the flat top of the root, while rutabagas grow a projection or neck at the top from which the smooth, waxy leaves develop.

Growing up we ate “yellow” turnips which I later learned were really rutabagas. (Rutabagas are also called yellow turnip or Swede.) Turnips are white fleshed and covered with a thin layer of pale yellow or white skin with purple tinged shoulders. One of my favorite dishes is whole baby turnip baked in a little olive oil (350 degrees for around 30 minutes). Delicious!

Hilton House Celebrates Customer’s 100th Birthday



DAVID DIERKS

Hilton House helps celebrate **Minnie Christensen’s** (seated) 100th birthday. (L-R) **Marilynn Davis, Cyndi Girgis** (kneeling), **Rita Kuchner, Hilma Johnsen, and Marcela Avelar.**

A wonderful party was held at Hilton House on October 9 to celebrate the 100th birthday of Minnie Christensen. Cyndi Girgis arranged the party, aided by Minnie’s daughter Hilma Johnsen. Cake and soft drinks were enjoyed by all, while local band Jose and the Gang (Jose Avelar, Marcela Avelar, Mark Shaw, Francia Moran and Vernan Moran) entertained the partygoers.

Red, round garden beets are the most common variety of this edible root, but I keep my options open for holiday meals. Golden or Little Ball beets are tender and sweet with mild tasting tops. An Italian heirloom called Chioggia Striped or Candy Cane shows up regularly at the market – when sliced crosswise it reveals rings of alternating cherry-red and creamy white color.

All beets need to be washed before using. Red Beets “bleed” their color when cooked, so the skin along with an inch or so of the stem and root should be left intact. Golden beets do not “bleed” their color when cooked or used for pickling, but peeling the skin is still much easier after cooking.

Boil whole beets in just enough water to cover for 20 to 45 minutes, depending on size. Drain, cool slightly, then slip the skins off and trim stem and roots. I prefer to clean and wrap beets in foil with a little olive oil and chopped chive or dill. Bake at 375 degrees for 45 to 60 minutes. Cool, remove skin and slice or dice to serve.

California is the leading producer of carrots for the nation. There are over 80 varieties grown world wide of which many are hybrid varieties on the carrot standards such as Nantes, Imperator and Chantenay. I’m always drawn to color and variety so I find myself with bunches of orange, scarlet, purple and white carrots. The taste of col-

[SEE SHOPPER page 26]



A true friend of the Orinda Library:
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LOCAL INDEPENDENT FILM

The Perfect Film for Local Filmmakers

By SALLY HOGARTY
Editor

Sitting back and relaxing is not an option for Orinda filmmakers Julie Rubio and Ramona Maramonte. They both thrive on the creativity, not to mention chaos, of independent filmmaking. The two teamed up last year for *Six Sex Scenes and a Murder*, which premiered at the California Independent Film Festival at the Orinda Theater last April. Now, they are busy doing post production on their latest endeavor *Too Perfect*.

The coming-of-age film follows five Orinda teens who have just finished the last day of school and are looking forward to summer vacation unaware of circumstances within their families that will change their lives forever. "I wanted to portray teens in a positive light – show how they deal with everyday life," Rubio explains. "Teens constantly have decisions to make – forks in the road as life happens to them." The young adults in the film deal with divorce, a parent's unexpected pregnancy, a mother's



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Local filmmakers **Julie Rubio** (L) and **Ramona Maramonte** at last year's California Independent Film Festival at the Orinda Theatre

battle with cancer, and the death of a grandparent. "I've watched how my own teenage son and his friends deal with the various challenges that come their way," says Rubio. "They really support one another and are a family."

Rubio, who wrote, directed and produced the film along with fellow producers Maramonte and Jody Wirt, remembers what a life changing experience it was when she lost her own grandparents at this impressionable age. "It was a transition point for me. I definitely grew up more as a result," she says. It's just this type of transition that Rubio and Maramonte hope to capture in *Too Perfect*.

Rubio's son Elijah is in the film as well as many of his friends. "We wanted to cast locally whenever possible and were fortunate to find so many talented teens right here in Orinda," Rubio says. "Orinda kids are exposed to the arts in school and the community. Many have been in plays or taken an acting class," she adds. "Although many of the kids were pretty blown away when they got on the set," says Maramonte. "They didn't expect a professional film crew and large cameras. But they settled down and did a great job."

Maramonte, who was introduced to Rubio when she moved to Orinda nine years ago, has embraced independent filmmaking. Although new to film, Maramonte has lots of experience performing with her band as a singer so transitioning to this new artistic medium was not a problem. "Creativity is at the top of the list when making an independent film," she explains. "You don't have the time or money to throw around. It really gets your creative juices flowing as you settle each problem." Rubio concurs: "Working on an independent film heightens your senses. The cast and crew become your family as you work as a team



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
(L-R) **Sam Lant** (Los Angeles) and **Elijah Stavena, Jake Linares, Antonia Salmeron, and Matteo Natini** of Orinda had major roles in the coming of age film shot in Orinda.

creating these magic moments."

Rubio and Maramonte not only wanted to show teens in a positive light, but they also wanted to showcase the City of Orinda. "The local businesses were so supportive. We couldn't have done it without them," says Maramonte. Filming took place at several Orinda locations including Republic of Cake, Shelby's, Petra's, Casper's, Lava Pit, the Orinda Theater, and Table 24 at Theatre Square as well as Loard's Ice Cream. "These businesses were so generous with

their locations and their time," Rubio says. "Entourage let us use their space for make-up and wardrobe, Peet's Coffee and Tea supplied coffee, Pop Chips and Vitamin Water donated their products, and Orinda Property Management at Theatre Square was so helpful. We also couldn't have asked for better cooperation from the Orinda Police and the City of Orinda. And Maramonte principal Adam Clark was just incredible. He made everything work so well when we filmed at Miramonte High School, including supplying 100 extras!" The shooting schedule also included a stop at Lafayette Car Wash. "Everyone was just so generous. We are very grateful," Rubio adds.

Rubio and Maramonte and the rest of their team are now busy editing and doing pick-up shots as they try to finish the film by mid-November. They plan on showing the film to schools in late spring. "We really want this film to premiere in the schools," says Rubio. "It is directed at that audience and lets kids know that what they are experiencing in their day-to-day life

[SEE TOO PERFECT page 16]

Too Perfect Needs Your Help

Quality independent filmmaking can be very expensive. The producers of *Too Perfect* can use your help getting their positive image of local teens on the big screen. The "crowd-funding" campaign is in full swing to raise funds for editing, color correction, sound design, and music. Be a part of this beautifully HD-filmed production that showcases Orinda. Go to www.tooperfect.net to see how you can be involved.

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- Support small business and growth

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ORINDA LIBRARY GALLERY

Orinda Library Gallery: By the Sea, By the Beautiful Sea and Clay Art Guild Members

ELANA O'LOSKEY
Staff Writer

November's exhibit heralds paintings by Jennifer Wolpert and mixed media works by Priscilla Hine, both of whom agree with Jacques Cousteau: "The sea, once it casts its spell, holds one in its net of wonder forever." Plus, over 15 Clay Arts Guild members will display works including salt fired vessels, high fire and raku bowls, high fire sculpture, a high fired African mask, hand built dishes and a raku pumpkin. The exhibit runs the entire month, with an Artists Reception on Sunday, November 7 from 3 to 5 pm where light refreshments will be served.

Jennifer Wolpert began painting in acrylics and oils about 10 years ago after a career in the design industry. She likes the texture and depths of color and light she can achieve with oils and acrylics for their flexibility and speed. Oils usually go on canvas or panels while acrylics are applied

to paper. A member of Pro Arts in Oakland, she has been active in Open Studios. Much of her work is representational of the ocean and wildlife; nature provides her with puissant inspiration. She also works abstractly, metamorphosing from representational to abstraction.



JENNIFER WOLPERT
Artist Jennifer Wolpert's **Pelican**, a 20"x30" acrylic on wood panel, will be displayed at the November gallery show.

Wolpert hopes viewers will, "Walk away with a feeling of depth, movement or light – or perhaps even a feeling of being underwater; an appreciation of nature as I appreciate it. I hope it makes them happy!" As to the value of art in our community, she notices that, "Some children feel empowered by doing artwork, especially if they are troubled by other areas of their education where they do not feel as confident. It gives them a place to excel." The show theme is "Sea Reflections and Currents," and includes Sardinian Sea Floor (acrylic on paper 20" x 26") and Pelican, acrylic on wood panel, 20" x 30". View Wolpert's work at www.jenniferwolpert.com.

Priscilla Hine is a mixed media artist who has been creating collages and self portraits for over 20 years using paper,

acrylics, pastels, pencil and water soluble crayons. She loves to construct with paper and considers herself more of a constructor than a painter. The self-portraits began five years ago when, "I started looking more closely at myself because of some personal things in my life." A mentor who critiques her work asked her one day, "What do you want to say?" She had been reading in the *SF Chronicle* about the giant squid that were appearing in the Bay, a most unusual occurrence. Her theme for the exhibit, "Is this Fact or Is This Fantasy: Reflections on Our Changing Environment" includes Carnivorous Squid (mixed media, 18 x 24). An article on the falling otter population inspired *The Sea, A Soup of Life* (mixed media, 18 x 24). Her nest series is about gestation, such as *The Egg is Hatching [Despite the Stormy Seas!]* which has to be seen to be appreciated. Hine finds it disturbing that humans are forever changing the natural habitats of Earth while at other times gestating wildlife is revered and mystical, seen as the Great Spirit at work.

Hine hopes her work inspires curiosity: "I'd like viewers to be asking questions about what these changes in our environment mean to them and wondering about what our role is in nature versus nature making its own changes – that relationship." She believes art can bring you back to a quiet place inside, can make you mad, make you laugh out loud. This is important because we forget who we truly are running around doing our jobs all day – art can motivate us to make changes. So, this mixed media artist conveys a mixed message to us in her work, one of both worry and hope for our precious environment. For more of her work, see www.priscillahine.com.

The Walnut Creek Clay Arts Guild (CAG) presently has about 125 members, some 15 of whom will be exhibiting works.



JENNIFER WOLPERT
Sardinian Sea Floor by Jennifer Wolpert continues her ocean theme.

Jackie Gerry, organizer of the CAG portion of the exhibit, has been creating ceramics since the late 1960's because, "I've always loved doing things with my hands." Influences and teachers include Bruno Kirk, Leslie Jensen and Michael Berkeley. Gerry shows up at Open Studio (a benefit of CAG membership) when she can – it's open about 30 hours a week, 40 weeks out of the year. She also continuously takes classes; travels to exhibits in San Francisco, Palo Alto and elsewhere in the Bay area; and loves looking at original Greek and Roman artifacts.

Gerry hopes kids in school will have the same opportunity she does for "Throwing on the wheel - all my worries go away!" Pushing for arts and music in the schools, she "Can't imagine a world without art and music – it's important for a person to be well-balanced in life." She works with her

[SEE GALLERY page 15]

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Logo designed by Aidan Rossiter, OIS student



To learn more, visit Julie's website at: www.julierossiter.org

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Top Priorities

- maximize school funding and ensure best use of funds
- continue improving and updating school curriculum and resources
- partner with parents, community, teachers and administrators to ensure ultimate goal: providing best possible education for all students in Orinda

Background

- three children in Orinda schools (ages 12, 10 and 4)
- business litigation and employment law attorney
- legislative representative for Del Rey Elementary to local PTA
- Annual Fund treasurer
- leadership roles in school fundraisers
- classroom volunteer in numerous capacities
- significant experience in negotiation and building consensus to achieve results
- family involved in many community activities

Community Endorsements (partial list)

- Shawn and Aline Aghababian
- Jeff and Seanna Allen
- Norwood and Joanne Allen
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- John and Trish Barnes
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- Josh and Jennifer Carter

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- Chris and Julia Stenzel
- Laurie Tennant
- Julian and Kimberly Thomas
- Michael and Karla Vukelich
- Marta Wallace
- Susan Wisk
- Julie Whitsitt
- Diane Wong

ORINDA COMMUNITY CHURCH

Coming to terms With Slavery in Unique November 6 Workshop

By BOBBIE DODSON
Staff Writer

“We discovered our New England ancestors were the largest slave-trading family in United States history,” states Holly Fulton. “This led to the making of the 2008 Sundance Film Festival acclaimed documentary *Traces of the Trade: A Story from the Deep North*.” It will be shown as part of the Day of Reflection and Conversation on Race which will take place at the Orinda Community Church, 10 Irwin Drive, Orinda, on November 6 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

“The showing of this film raises many questions about the role of slavery in the United States and leads to questions about the part racism plays in our nation today,” Fulton says. “Of course, it’s very personal to me, and I’ll be sharing that.”

It was some 12 years ago when Fulton’s cousin, Katrina Brown, contacted her with the information about her ancestors, the DeWolfs, a prominent Bristol, Rhode Island family and their part in the slave trade. “We don’t think of families in the northern states being involved with slaves, but mine went

to Ghana, trading slaves for the rum the family made. They took some of them to work in the sugar cane fields of Cuba and Charleston, South Carolina, and sold some



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Holly Fulton discovered her ancestors were the largest slave-trading family in United States history. She will be showing a film and discussing the role of slavery on November 6 at the Orinda Community Church.

in Charleston. Sugar and molasses went from there to Bristol where the rum was made,” Fulton relates.

Brown got in touch with numerous family members telling them she planned to make a movie about the DeWolf family and inviting them to travel with her to gain more information. Reactions ranged from those interested in the journey to those who didn’t like the plan at all. In the end, 10, ranging in age from 32 to 71 and including Holly Fulton, made the trip.

Their journey took two and a half weeks, during which Brown filmed slave forts in Ghana, the ruins of a family plantation in Cuba, and the hometown of Bristol. Back home, the family confronted the thorny topic of what to do now. “In the context of growing calls for reparations for slavery, we struggled with the question of how to contribute to ‘repair,’” Brown says.

“I feel films like this one make people look at history and racism in ways some have not. The issues with which we DeWolf descendants are confronted apply to the nation as a whole. What is the legacy of slavery? Do we owe something to descendants of slaves for the sins of the fathers of this

country? How does Northern complicity change the equation?” Fulton questions.

A diversity trainer, Fulton, and her husband, Bill Peebles, a former Presbyterian minister and mental health therapist, plan to discuss these issues as well as how people participate in oppressive systems today, concluding with action plans and a worship service.

A suggested donation for the day, which includes lunch, is \$15. Payment can be made at the door, but advance reservations should be made by calling the Orinda Community Church 254-4906.

For further information, go to www.TracesoftheTrade.org to learn more about the film, or www.ComingtotheTable.org, which seeks to “acknowledge, understand and heal the persistent wound of the U.S. institution of slavery.”

A Day of Reflection

November 6
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Orinda Community Church

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

◆ LETTERS from page 4

In summary, I highly recommend Julie for the position of Orinda School Board trustee. She will prove to be a valuable asset to the Orinda students, teachers and administrators.

– Randy DeVecchi

Vote for Tyson Krumholz for School Board

Tyson Krumholz, my stepson, is running for Orinda School Board. He is extremely bright, has his Bachelor of Science Degree in Civil Engineering from Cal and is a licensed California Professional Engineer. In his position as senior project manager with Webcor Builders in San Francisco, he manages project budgets in the multi millions and has experience working with many governmental agencies with their inherent bureaucratic constraints. Tyson has successfully achieved positive outcomes for numerous Bay Area construction projects. Tyson has two young children in the Orinda Schools. His wife taught for several years in the Orinda school system. Tyson's mother, my wife, taught math and science for 30 years, the last 12 years she taught math and science at Orinda Intermediate School. Tyson has been involved with the Orinda Schools since his first child was enrolled in school at Wagner Ranch Elementary. He has attended school board meetings for the past three years, done volunteer work at Wagner Ranch, and believes great education is essential for a vibrant and productive society. I am a very proud step father, and

I urge all to vote for Tyson Krumholz for the Orinda School Board.

– William E. Wilbur D.D.S.

Van Voorhis-Gilbert a Good Choice

We have an opportunity to elect three new OUSD board members in November, and I hope you will join me in voting for Bekki Van Voorhis-Gilbert for one of those seats.

Last year, I was involved with a parent group called Save Environmental Education (SEE) in Orinda. At issue was the list of OUSD 2009-2010 budget cuts that put the environmental education program and the district naturalist position at the top of the list. During many months of school board meetings, parents and community members pleaded with the school board to work with them in a collaborative way to look at options for saving the nature area programs. Three specific proposals were presented to the school board. In addition, several requests were made by members of SEE for a task force to explore other options. These requests fell on deaf ears.

I was struck by the lack of transparency in the board's decision-making and what appeared to be a complete lack of interest in parental input. During this same time, I watched Bekki, as founder and president of SEE, start a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit, rally the Orinda community, create an online petition, a website, and raise over \$50,000 in about three weeks which was presented to EFO. Although I knew her as an involved parent at Wagner, it was in watching her professionalism visa-vis the OUSD Board

that I really got to know what kind of person she is.

I am voting for Bekki for Orinda Schools because she will bring this same level of energy, integrity and commitment to the best interests of our children's education to the OUSD Board.

– Susan Bell

Julie Rossiter for School Board

Citizens of Orinda, please join us in supporting Julie Rossiter for Orinda School Board.

Julie's breadth of experience and knowledge make her the ideal candidate for this important role.

Julie has children attending Orinda schools and understands the impact of the current financial crisis we are facing. She has spent years as an active participant in the classroom and the Del Rey Parents Club, serving as treasurer of our fundraising drive for two years, co-chair of operations on the school auction, co-chair of the annual parents gathering, representative of the parcel tax campaign, and is the current Del Rey legislative representative to the Las Trampas Creek Council.

She is also a practiced litigator who specialized in employment law. She knows how to roll up her sleeves and dig in to the issues at hand. She has significant experience solving difficult problems and is skilled at negotiating with others, in a positive, collaborative manner and will be the advocate we need to build consensus and obtain results.

In addition, she is a wonderful person – a kind, thoughtful, engaged mother, friend, wife and active member of our community – the type of person we want representing us and our children.

Julie will focus on maximizing public and private sources of school funding, continuing to improve the curriculum and providing students and teachers with the resources needed to excel in today's society.

Julie is endorsed by all five current members of the Orinda School Board: Jack Bontemps, Matt Moran, Pat Rudebush, Riki Sorenson, and Pam West.

We support Julie Rossiter for Orinda Schools and urge you to do the same. The Orinda School District, our children, and the community as a whole, will benefit from her experience, commitment and leadership.

–Seanna and Jeff Allen

Rossiter an Ideal Candidate

Voting day is fast approaching on November 2, 2010. We would like to ask the residents of Orinda to join us and give Julie Rossiter their vote of support for Orinda School Board. Julie is an ideal candidate for this important role.

Julie has lived in Orinda for over six years. Her children and family love the schools and community that they have called home. Previously, Julie has volunteered in the classrooms as Del Rey Parents'

Club annual fund treasurer, co-chair of operations on the school auction, co-chair of the annual parents gathering, representative of the parcel tax campaign, and is the current Del Rey legislative representative to the Las Trampas Creek Council.

Julie became an attorney and practiced as a litigator in employment law. She will work hard and serve the Orinda School Board well. She has the ability to understand complicated issues. She will negotiate with others in a style that is positive, yet effective to navigate through this difficult time when funding is immensely challenged.

We have known Julie and her family for six years. She is the kind of person we want representing us! She is kind, thoughtful, smart, an engaged mother, friend, wife and active member of our community.

Julie is endorsed by all five current members of the Orinda School Board: Jack Bontemps, Matt Moran, Pat Rudebush, Riki Sorenson and Pam West.

Please join us in supporting Julie Rossiter for one of the three open seats for the Orinda School Board. She will serve us all well!

– Karla and Michael Vukelich

Preserve Semi-Rural Orinda

With regard to the proposed downtown plan to raise the building height in Orinda on the block that includes our most vibrant area of commercialism (which includes Nation's, Europa Hof Brau, our hardware store, Loard's Ice Cream to name a few that would be demolished, never to return, should this downtown plan be enacted) it's easy to sit back in an armchair and say, "wait, I don't like that plan, and we should not re-develop under the guise of "revitalize" our downtown with multi-story condos and cookie cutter retailers that have no relevance to me." It is another thing altogether to say that, and then actually do something about it, like what Scott Zeller is doing.

Zeller is an experienced leader, trustworthy and believes the future of Orinda is best decided by the majority of all people in Orinda collectively versus a small group. With his help, we can have a real "revitalization" with improved storefront facades, more greenery, and a boost to small businesses that are indeed relevant to our community.

We have five candidates running for Orinda City Council, and each voter may select up to three on the ballot.

Scott Zeller has my vote and, hopefully, one of yours to preserve all of the semi-rural characteristics that enticed me, and perhaps you, to move to Orinda.

– Susan Winchester

Severson & Rossiter - the Cream of the Crop

It has been my great pleasure to serve on the OUSD Board of Trustees from 2002 to 2010. As I transition from board member to

[SEE LETTERS 2 page 18]

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PRESCHOOL DIRECTORY

Lamorinda Preschools Create Wonderful Environments for Children

By DAVID DIERKS
Staff Writer

Preschool is an important part of forming a child's personal, social and emotional development, as well as helping parents with their busy schedules. Below is *The Orinda News'* list of Lamorinda preschool and post-school programs.

Contact the schools for further information on enrollment and cost. Also, visit www.eastbaypreschools.com, a handy resource for families searching for programs for their children.

Orinda**Fountainhead Montessori School**

30 Santa Maria Way, Orinda, CA 94563

925-820-1343

7 a.m. – 6 p.m.

2- to 6-year-olds, Preschool, Pre-K, Kindergarten, Childcare (hourly), Summer School

www.fountainheadmontessori.org

Holy Shepard Christian Preschool

433 Moraga Way, Orinda, CA 94563

925-254-3429

9 a.m. – noon, extended day until 2 p.m.

Toddler (2-3), Pre-kindergarten (ages 4-5), Extended care (monthly or hourly)

www.holyshepherd.org

St. John Preschool

501 Moraga Way, Orinda, CA 94563

925-254-4470

7 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Preschool (2-3 or 4-5), Jr. Kindergarten (4+)

preschool@stjohnorinda.org

St. Mark's Nursery School

451 Moraga Way, Orinda, CA 94563

925-254-1364

Age 3 (Tu/Th) 9 a.m. to noon, age 4 (Mon/Wed/Fri) 9 a.m. to noon, Lunch Bunch (Daily to 2 p.m. all ages welcome)

stmarksorinda@gmail.com

www.stmarksnurseryschool.org



RUTH KAISER

Charlotte Gellman enjoys a game at Lafayette's Tot Drop.



SALLY HOGARTY

Hannah Cheng and Xinee Lim begin an art project at TOPS Preschool in Orinda.

St. Stephen's Preschool

66 St. Stephen's Dr., Orinda, CA 94563

925-254-3770, ext. 19

2 year program 9 a.m. – 11:30, Tu/Th, 3 to Pre-K 9 a.m. – noon, MWF, with optional lunch bunch on MW until 2 p.m.

www.ststephenorinda.org/preschool.htm

The Orinda Preschool – TOPS

10 Irwin Way, Orinda, CA 94563

925-254-2551

8:45 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Preschool (ages 2-4), Lunch Bunch Playgroup (ages 3-5), Developmental Kindergarten (age 5)

www.topsonline.org

topsonline@sbcglobal.net

Lafayette**Apple Seed Little School**

Lafayette, CA

925-962-9335

8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

2 to 5 years old, Preschool Program with Extended Child Care

www.appleseedlittleschool.com

Center of Arts, Technology & Science

961 1st Street, Lafayette, CA 94549

925-283-4500

7 a.m. to 6 p.m.

4yrs 9 mos and up, PreK, before/after school care year round, summer camp

Child Day School

1049 Stuart Street, Lafayette, CA 94549

925-284-7092

6:45 a.m. – 6:15 p.m.

Ages 2-6, minimum 3-5 days per week, Twos, Threes, Pre-K, summer care, Developmental Kindergarten

www.tcdschools.com

Diablo Valley Montessori School

3390 Deerhill Road, Lafayette, CA 94549

925-283-6036

7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Infant/toddler (3 months to 2 years), 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Two's/Transition (2-3 years), Preschool/kindergarten (3-6 years) with times available 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., Extended Care (7:30 a.m. – 6 p.m. for enrolled students), Summer Program (3-6 years)

www.dvms.org

First Steps Learning Center

3201 Stanley Blvd., Lafayette, CA 94549

925-933-6283

7 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Ages 0-2; infant care, full time only, year-round.

French for Fun

3468 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Suite B100, Lafayette, CA 94549

925-283-9822

Usually applications are submitted in spring for fall sessions, but openings sometimes occur during the year.

Ages 2-5+, Toddler, Preschool 2-5, Pre- [SEE PRESCHOOL page 14]

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info@saintjohnsanglican.org

11am. Sunday Worship at
Santa Maria Church Chapel, Orinda
(No service 1st Sunday of the month)



TOPS
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PRESCHOOL DIRECTORY

◆ PRESCHOOL from page 13

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www.frenchforfun.com

Gan Ilan Preschool, Temple Isaiah
3800 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette, CA 94549
925-284-8453
9 a.m. to 1 p.m.: ages 2-4
8 to 9 a.m. and 1 to 3 p.m.: Extended Care
www.Temple-Isaiah.org

Happy Days Learning Center
3205 Stanley Blvd., Lafayette, CA 94549
925-932-8088
7 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Age 2-5+, Preschool, Kindergarten up to 5th grade. Before and after school care ages 5-12

Joyful Beginnings Preschool
955 Moraga Road, Lafayette, CA 94549
925-284-1143
3 year program Tu/Th 8:45 a.m. To 11:45 a.m.
4 year program MWF 8:45 a.m. To 11:45 a.m.
Pre-K M-F 8:45 a.m. To 11:45 a.m.

Lunch Bunch 11:45 a.m. To 2:45 p.m.
joyfulbeginnings@sbcglobal.net

Lafayette Nursery School
979 First Street, Lafayette, CA 94549
925-284-2448
Preschool Program 2 yrs. 9 mo. to 5 yrs 2.9-4 Yr. Old Morning Program: MWF 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
4-5 Yr. Old Afternoon Program: M-Th 12:30 p.m. to 3p.m.
lafayettenurseryschool@mail.com
http://lafayettenurseryschool.com

Merriewood Children's Center
561 Merriewood Drive, Lafayette, CA 94549
925-284-2121
Toddler-parent class, Monday only 9-11:30 a.m.
Preschool: age 2.5-3 (2 day), age 3-4 (3 day)
Age 4-5 (4 or 5 days) 8:30-11:30 a.m.
Extended Care available until 2:15 p.m.
www.Merriewood.org

Michael Lane Preschool
682 Michael Lane, Lafayette, CA 94549
(925) 284-7244
9 a.m. to Noon with a lunch option from Noon to 1p.m.
2 yrs. 9 mo. to Pre-K

http://myclassroomconnection.com/Preschools/michaellanepreschool/default.aspx

Old Firehouse School
984 Moraga Road, Lafayette, CA 94549
925-284-4321
8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Infants to Prekindergarten (12 months to age 5)
www.oldfirehouseschool.com

Seedlings
Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church
49 Knox Drive, Lafayette, CA 94549
925-284-3870
9:15 a.m. to 2:15 p.m.
Infant/toddler, Preschool, Pre-K, Developmental Kindergarten, Extended care, ages 2-4 to 3:15 p.m.
seedlings@lopc.org
www.lopc.org/seedlings.asp

Tot Drop – Preschool by Appointment
500 St. Mary's Road, Lafayette, CA 94549
925-284-3999
9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
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www.totdrop.com



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Momoko Kukkonen learns to spell her name at the Old Firehouse School.

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1450 Moraga Road, Moraga, CA 94556
925-820-1343
7 a.m. to 6 p.m.
2- to 6-year-olds, Preschool, Pre-K, Kindergarten, Childcare (hourly), Summer School
www.fountainheadmontessori.org

Growing Tree Preschool
1695 Canyon Road, Moraga, CA 94556
925-376-8280
8 a.m. To 4:30 p.m.
Two's, Three's, Pre-K (4-5), Transitional kindergarten (4.11-6)
www.growingtreepreschool.net

Moraga Bright Beginnings Christian Preschool
1689 School Street, Moraga, CA 94556
925-376-2600
8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
9 a.m. to noon preschool
Three's (ages 2.6-3.8), Pre-kindergarten (3.9-4.1), Developmental Kindergarten (5), Pre-K

Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church Nursery Preschool
10 Moraga Valley Lane, Moraga, CA 94556
925-376-4800 ext. 248
9 a.m. to noon Preschool to Pre-K, noon to 3 p.m. Extended care
www.mvpc.today.org

Mulberry Tree Preschool
1455 St. Mary's Road, Moraga, CA 94556
925-376-1751
8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Variable schedule, ages 2-5, Extended care available (hourly), 5 days/week
www.mulberrypreschool.com

Saklan Valley School
1678 School Street, Moraga, CA 94556
925-376-7900
7 a.m. to 6 p.m., Extended Day, Pre-K (4-5).
www.saklan.org

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SALLY HOGARTY
Cole Westphal and Drew Persinger develop their climbing skills at TOPS in Orinda.

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999 Leland Drive, Lafayette, CA 94549
925-938-9958
7 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.
Preschool, Pre-K, Kindergarten (also grades 1-5)
www.meherschools.org

Moraga Child Day School
372 Park Street, Moraga, CA 94556
925-376-5110
6:45 a.m. to 6:15 p.m.
Infant/Toddler (age 1+), Ages 2-3, Pre-K, Summer care, Junior-kindergarten
www.tcdschools.com

Creative Playhouse
1350 Moraga Way, Moraga, CA 94556
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FESTIVAL OF TREES / SALSA

Orinda Woman's Club Festival of Trees

The Orinda Woman's Club returns to the San Ramon Marriott Hotel for its annual luncheon and fashion show. Scheduled for November 18, the festivities begin at 10:30 a.m. when the gorgeous table top trees and gift baskets will be available for potential buyers to enjoy. A raffle for three wonderful trips will also be held.

Following the lavish luncheon, a combination of professional models and community members model Helen Lyall's stylish creations. Proceeds from this year's event benefit the Monument Crisis Center and Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Contra Costa County. To attend the Festival of Trees, call Kelly at 254-4900 or Betty at 253-1441.



SALLY HOGARTY
Glittery models add to the excitement of the annual fashion show.

Learn to Salsa for the Holidays

Be a hit at your office holiday party or that special New Year's Eve celebration – learn to salsa! "It's a great way to connect with your current partner, or meet a new one," says instructor Tomaj Trenda. "The instruction is step-by-step so anyone can learn to dance salsa."

Trenda's classes at the Orinda Community Center are very popular, attracting students of all ages and abilities. A new seven-week session runs November 8 - December 20. Students can take the entire session or pay a drop in fee to take just a class or two. For more information, go to www.YouTube.com/TomajTrenda. To register for the November class, call the Orinda Com-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Tomaj Trenda demonstrates a salsa move with one of his students.

munity Center at 254-2445 or go online to www.cityoforinda.org.

◆ GALLERY from page 10

grandchildren's Girl Scout Troops to make sure they are exposed to this fascinating art form. Sometimes she does hand work, or pit fire, high fire, raku, and loves different types of media and techniques. Come by and see Flower Burst, a pit fired clay vessel 10" x 7" and you'll appreciate this artist's dexterity and dedication.

Other CAG members showing works include David Vanderjagt, Olga Judisman, Kate Chenok, Alice Lasky, Jean Calicura, Mary Miller, Jim Newton, Sandy Ritchie, Rayna, Jackie Arkasali, Joan Ibarolle, Mag-

gie Boscoe, Virginia Rigny and Pam Bidins. Others contributing works were not named at press time. You're sure to be captivated by the range and quality of these technically proficient and artistic ceramicists/sculptors. Check out their website at www.clayarts-guild.com for more information.

Visit the gallery during normal library hours - Monday - Thursday 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Friday and Saturday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; and Sunday 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. at 23 Orinda Way, Orinda (Orinda Village Exit) - 925-254-2814 for more information. Don't forget, Caffe Teatro is near the elevator with delicious coffee, tea and snacks.

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PINE GROVE

Money Management Firms Keep Pine Grove Business Center on Top

By MAGGIE SHARPE
Staff Writer

On a secluded terraced hillside, at the corner of Orinda Way and Santa Maria Way in Orinda Village, is Pine Grove Business Center. Located on 5.71 acres, the center features five Spanish-style buildings with about 90,000 square feet of office space. The campus-like setting is home to more than a dozen businesses, mostly financiers, specializing in capital investment and asset management.

Pine Grove Business Center was built in 1981, a partnership between Orinda real estate developer Clark Wallace, builder Charles Branagh, and real estate company Mason-McDuffie.

At the time, Mason-McDuffie was headquartered in Berkeley but was outgrowing its Telegraph Avenue location. The original plan was for Mason-McDuffie to lease all five buildings at Pine Grove, according to Bob Maderious, senior vice president with Grubb and Ellis, which manages the business center.

However, the diverse real estate interests of Mason-McDuffie's 40+ partners began to splinter the company, and it split up before the Pine Grove construction was complete. Many of the firm's spin-offs eventually moved into Pine Grove, and other space was leased to outside companies including banking, investment and insurance firms. "The center has always been home to finance-related entities," says Maderious.

The center was subsequently sold to the

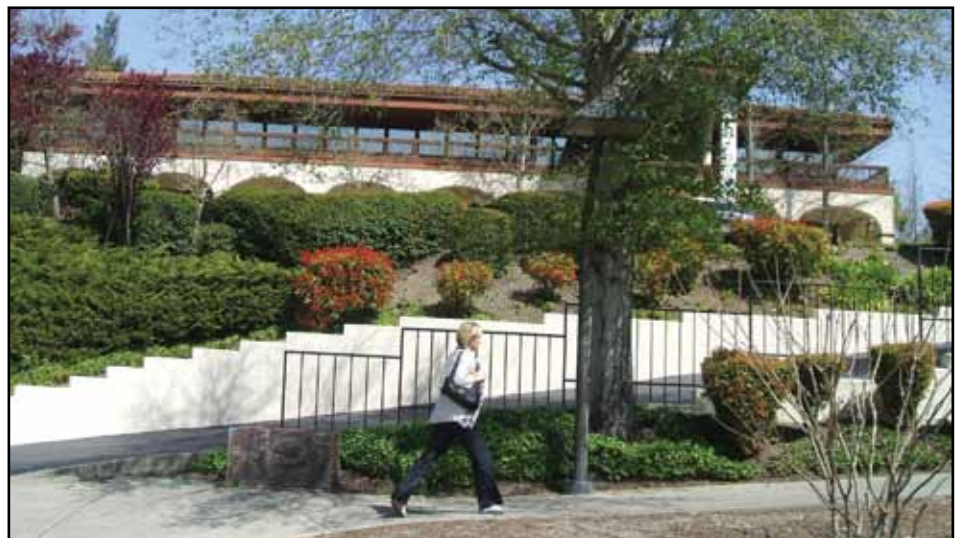
City of San Jose as an investment for the city's employee pension funds. Eleven years later, San Jose sold the property to the current owners, Pine Grove LLC, a local Contra Costa family.

Its prime location, with panoramic views over the rolling hills of Orinda and close proximity to BART and Highway 24, has made it one of the most desirable commercial locations in Contra Costa County. "This building has a remarkable history," says Maderious. "Pine Grove has had 95 percent occupancy for the past 20 years."

Maderious, who specializes in leasing office space in the East Bay, says the center commands the highest rents in Contra Costa County, yet maintains one of the lowest vacancy rates. "It's a testament to the desirability of commercial space in Orinda," says Maderious, adding that the center compares to high quality space in San Francisco or Marin County. "There is not much office space in Orinda and only a handful of places that offer a large amount of good-quality space."

He says the center's success is a function of "supply and demand" and an affluent clientele that is willing to pay top dollar for prime location. "A lot of the principals have worked for larger firms in the past," says Maderious. "They are looking for a lifestyle change where they can work closer to home and their children and don't have to commute."

One such company is Litman/Gregory, an investment management and research firm with offices in Orinda and Larkspur. The company was founded by Ken Gregory and Craig Litman in 1987 and moved to Pine Grove in the early 1990s. Gregory is a local resident who runs the Orinda office, while his partner Litman makes his home in Marin. The company began with 2,000 square feet of space and 11 employees in



MAGGIE SHARPE

A BART commuter uses the pathway below the Pine Grove Business Center.

Orinda; today, it occupies more than 10,000 square feet at Pine Grove and employs 35 people.

While Litman/Gregory has maintained steady growth over the years, Director of Resources Steve Disenhof says 2007 and 2008 "were not delightful years" for the company or its clients. "A lot of brokers and dealers were hiding under the table, not wanting to talk to their clients," says Disenhof. "Our brokers were on the phone 12 hours a day, talking to clients."

Disenhof says he believes that communication was key to the company's great recovery in 2009. "If you do the right things for your clients and shareholders, good things will happen," he says. Disenhof says the company finds Pine Grove comfortable and convenient. "There's a lot of available real estate, but we like the location and the ownership here," says Disenhof.

Another happy tenant is Nicole Normandeau, president of Health Management Solutions (HMS), a respiratory care registry that supplies hospitals throughout the Bay Area with their staffing needs. The company has been in business for 20 years. Three years ago, HMS relocated from a small office above Orinda Starbucks to Pine Grove Business Center. "I love the location and the space," says Normandeau, who employs between 25 and 50 people. "We are centrally located to everything."

One of the oldest and largest tenants at the center is also one of its most successful. Axa Rosenberg was founded in Orinda in

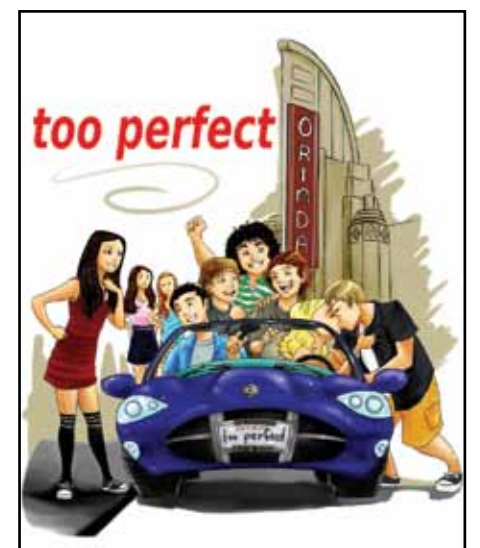
1985 by Barr Rosenberg and Kenneth Reid. Today, the equity investment management firm manages \$70 billion in assets, with 270 clients worldwide. While the company still makes its headquarters in Orinda, it also has offices in North America, England, Asia and Australia. "The company specializes in building computer-based investment management models," says Maderious. "It moved into Pine Grove in 1987, occupying 2,500 square feet of space. Today, they are the largest tenant, with 55,000 square feet of office."

Pine Grove Business Center is located at 4 Orinda Way. For more information, contact Bob Maderious at Grubb & Ellis, 925-274-2455 or bob.maderious@grubb-ellis.com.

◆ TOO PERFECT from page 9

isn't unusual, that others have some of the same problems and decisions to make." The filmmakers then hope to show the film at various film festivals before releasing it for general distribution.

For more information on *Too Perfect*, go to www.tooperfect.net.



MASON TONG

Artist **Mason Tong**, who also works at Shelby's restaurant in Theatre Square, created this cartoon image for the film.

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STRIVE FOR CHANGE / NIGHT OUT

Strive For Change Makes a Difference

By VALERIE HOTZ
Staff Writer

One man's frustration with America's increasing infatuation with the rich and powerful and increasing indifference about the poor and powerless led him to establish a nonprofit foundation that helps the working poor by providing grant funds to such institutions as the Opportunity Junction, Bread Project, Wardrobe for Opportunity, to name a few.

Local businessman, Les Ellis, owner of the insurance agency Les Ellis and Associates in Orinda, gathered some of his friends together five years ago with the vision that everyone would donate \$100 monthly – \$1,200 every year. Appropriately named The 1200 Foundation, the organization recently changed its name to Strive For Change Foundation.

"I sensed the time had come in my life to give something back, and I knew a lot of people who shared this concern. I myself grew up poor in Richmond. My own father left school after the 6th grade because my grandfather had deserted the family. My father worked for Union Ice Company and had a very modest income," explains Ellis. It was through self-training that Ellis' father retired as chief stationary engineer at Children's Hospital in Oakland.

"There are an awful lot of people who work very hard and don't ever get ahead in life because they lack skills. The best way to get skills is in a program where you apply work ethic and energy to develop required skills to move out of poverty," points out Ellis. "We found a recent study showed that 25 percent of Alameda County residents and 21 percent of Contra Costa County residents have incomes insufficient to pay for all basic necessities.

Strive for Change Foundation provides grants to nine different programs located within Alameda and Contra Costa Counties. The maximum grant amount is \$10,000, with a goal that this amount is increased next year. Currently in its fifth year of operation, the nonprofit has awarded \$250,000 in grants. This grant funding is restricted exclusively to programs in Contra Costa County. The volunteer board of directors pays all expenses of the foundation, so 100 percent of an individual's contribution to Strive for Change goes directly to the programs.

Ellis continues to generate interest in Strive for Change by hosting house parties in a supporter's home and inviting the executive director of a program and a graduate of the program to speak to guests about their experiences. "It is such rewarding work. Hearing directly from graduates of the programs is inspiring. A graduate of Opportunity Junction in Antioch spoke movingly about how this was the first time in her life she saw something through to the end and how her children are extremely proud of her," adds Ellis.

Strive for Change does not accept applications for grants. The board members locate programs by conducting their own research. By implementing a special due diligence process at the outset, the board is assured the grant funding is directed to an organization that will make the most of the resources. "We typically restrict our giving to foundations with annual incomes of less than \$1 million, and, of course, we require annual reports," says Ellis.

For more information about Strive for Change Foundation, including its most recent newsletter, visit the website at www.striveforchange.org.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

(L-R) Strive for Change board members **Dave Anderson, Sandy Anderson** and **Les Ellis**.

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Orinda Night Out a Big Success



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

On September 30, neighborhoods all over Orinda turned out to get to know each other better and to discuss ways to work together in the event of a disaster. (L-R) **Mike Kavanaugh, Michael Donner, Colleen Hildeburn** (whose family hosted the party), **Tim Millette** and **Dan Hoskins**. (back row) MOFD **Captain Sean Perkins**.



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

◆ LETTERS 2 from page 12

citizen, I remain concerned for the enduring excellence of the Orinda Schools. To this end, I offer my fullest measure of support to exceptional Orinda parents and candidates: Chris Severson, M.D. and Julie Rossiter, J.D., Severson and Rossiter both bring a positive and collaborative approach to the needs and challenges facing our children and our schools.

Chris Severson, M.D., is a product of Orinda schools, and father of five (four kids in OUSD!). Chris has impeccable credentials of education and community service, but most importantly, he is a team player, hoping to help a great district get even better. He is an upbeat problem solver, and is heavily invested in our schools. You can read more about him at: <http://www.christopherseverson.com>.

Julie Rossiter, J.D., has kids at OIS and Del Rey, with one in preschool. As an active Legislative Committee member, she is well versed in state education policies and funding. She has a passion for public education and a great desire to serve her community. She has a demonstrated ability to form unity approaches to difficult problems and honors the opinions of those around her. More on Julie at www.julierossiter.org.

This November, please join me in voting for Chris Severson and Julie Rossiter for the OUSD Board of Trustees. Our children deserve their leadership.

– Riki Sorenson

Re-Elect Amy Worth

I am in my second term on the City Council of Orinda, currently serving as the

Vice-Mayor. I have been privileged to serve alongside Amy Worth, who is a walking, talking example of a public servant devoted to improving the City of Orinda; I am so lucky that she has been my mentor.

I first met Amy several years ago when she successfully led a parcel tax campaign for our schools. Now, on the council, Amy does her homework and spends all the time required to educate herself on each issue that comes before us; her only goal is to do what is best for our community. Amy cares for each community member, young, old, families, students and seniors.

With Amy's leadership, we have transportation dollars to help fix our roads and a well-stocked library that few communities are privileged to have. Please help me continue to do my job as your council member by re-electing Amy Worth, my trusted colleague, to the Orinda City Council!

– Victoria Smith

McCormick's skills needed on City Council

I'm voting for Mayor Tom McCormick for re-election to Orinda's City Council. In a nutshell, McCormick has the intellect, stamina and courage to stand up to a variety of tough issues that confront Orinda — and future issues that will likely be more challenging.

As a past volunteer for the Planning Process Review Task Force (PPRTF — I was on the process subcommittee) and current volunteer on the Planning Commission, I worked closely with Tom over a two-year period and through dozens of meetings. I felt he had a good understanding of the issues and/or was quick on the uptake, and was willing to give everyone a shot at explaining a different perspective. While we did not always agree, and frequently did not, I always felt I had a fair shake — that Tom listened, and made us work toward good, consensus decisions to benefit all

of Orinda.

As a result of the public response over the 55' building height limit that was proposed by the PPRTF, the city, rightly so, has promised a restart of the downtown review through a series of meetings to try to find out what Orindans really want. Tom McCormick is the one that pressed for these additional meetings to get a full understanding of what Orinda wants and needs. While some may associate this upcoming review (which surely will be interesting) as a disappointment in the PPRTF, I do not. To the contrary, McCormick's leadership of the PPRTF was successful in establishing a vision and basis, and most of the solid recommendations from the process and residential subcommittees have or will be implemented. Most important, finally we have many more Orindans starting to engage their local government and, hopefully, refine the vision to preserve our town's cherished character while being mindful of the need to encourage business and services, and avoid urban decay. Listening to, developing, and implementing appropriate and intelligent perspectives of the local citizenry are critical roles for the City Council.

Whatever people think about the PPRTF proposal for revitalizing downtown (mostly on down sloped lots), I doubt the low-income senior housing 50' high structure, (which is proceeding in isolation to the new downtown review process) on an up sloping lot, across from the Fire House fits the "PPRTF image." If constructed in an envelope similar to what is outlined by the current story poles, I suspect many Orindans, who objected to the PPRTF, will be more than surprised.

Bottom line, there are many forces trying to reshape Orinda. As a 30 year resident, count me in the camp that favors a strong local government that listens to and acts on what Orindans want — and one that is not subservient to special interest advocacy groups. I think Orindans want our City Councilmembers to do what is best for Orinda, and sometimes make tough decisions that may not be "politically correct"—that's why I'm voting to re-elect Mayor Tom McCormick.

– Chris Kniel

Don't Vote for Incumbents

The November Orinda City Council election is very important. None of the three incumbents: McCormick, Severson or Worth support a vote by the citizens on having our own fire district (the only way we will get road repair funds) or on keeping Orinda's downtown semi-rural. Let the citizens vote.

Incumbent Amy Worth is trying to buy the election with expensive mailings.

The incumbents have no interest in restricting the Moraga Adobe development to protect Orinda from a fire storm such as the Great Oakland Fire.

Scott Zeller is running for the City Council. He is in favor of retaining Orinda's semi-rural character and opposes raising the downtown height to 55 feet (80 feet to some roofs). He is in favor of letting the citizens vote on major issues such as downtown remodeling and Orinda forming its own fire department. He is in favor of protecting Orinda's history and Orinda's safety in the Moraga Adobe development.

I recommend that you vote only for Scott Zeller in the election. If you feel you must vote for two candidates include Dean Orr.

– Clyde Vaughn

Choose the Right...Vote for Sue

There are lots of voices that want to be heard in Orinda on any issue, but few choose to step forward to truly and selflessly serve the people. Sue Severson is one of those.

Sue has helped lead our community through these tight and challenging times, and no one can refute that she has had the best interests of all Orindans, especially our youth, always at the forefront of her agenda and her actions. She has demonstrated this long before her current council term through her many years of dedicated volunteer service on numerous Orinda causes, and is deserving of your vote this election to another successful term on the city council.

Vote for fairness, honesty, and dedication. Vote for Sue Severson.

– Michael & Annette Linney

What is Proven Leadership?

I strongly urge Orinda voters to consider a proven leader, Scott Zeller, for Orinda City Council. This is a critical time for Orinda. Insider forces want to change the semi-rural nature and village character of our city.

Scott Zeller has demonstrated an uncommon sensitivity and understanding of why Orinda voters choose to live here. It's more than the excellent schools, the safe, clean neighborhoods, and proximity to a BART station. It's about a semi-rural way of life, a village character to the downtown, and all of the intangibles, which that implies.

Scott Zeller is the only candidate asking these questions. Why won't this city council conduct a wide-spread, professional survey of what Orinda citizens want in the downtown? Why does this city council tolerate a planning director, who should be a steward of the citizens, serve as the salesman for an insider-spawned, downtown

[SEE LETTERS 3 page 24]



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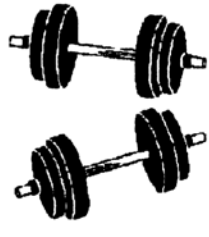


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HELPING OTHERS

Orinda Family's Birthday Party Helps Jamaican Community

By BOBBIE DODSON
Staff Writer

Rather than a party, a project was how Betty Karplus and her family chose to celebrate her 85th birthday. Their project was building a library in Lethe, a small town in Jamaica. Along with Betty, six of her children, Richard, Peggy, Beverly, Barbara, Andy and David, their spouses, plus 14 grandchildren and one great grandchild participated, a total of 26.

Always a family that devoted time to helping others, this endeavor was chosen because Betty served in Jamaica in the Peace Corps from 1991 to 1993. Getting in touch with a former colleague, Betty learned the local school - and community - had no library. The few books they possessed were in two cardboard boxes in the assistant principal's office. Certainly, the need was there.

Daughter Peggy and Betty visited the site ahead of time to determine where the library would be located and what materials they should bring from the States. Then a flurry of emails ensued as tasks were assigned to each family, such as putting on the roof, installing electrical wiring, purchasing necessary tools, designing library shelves and procuring the wood needed, and finding a place to stay. Everyone came through. The entourage was ready to roll when they arrived. The 8' x 40' steel container they'd purchased had already been securely placed on the foundation that local workers built.

Residing in a rented villa a quarter of a mile from the school, the crew awakened at 6 a.m. each morning, working when the weather was coolest. In the evening, progress was reviewed and assignments given for the following day.

Seven days later, boxes of books had



Betty Karplus (2nd from left on 2nd step) and 26 members of her family celebrated her 85th birthday by building a library in Jamaica.

been organized and were ready to be checked out. There were books for all ages so that the entire community could benefit from the library. Since the Karplus family has returned to the United States, seven more boxes have been sent to Jamaica, and the collecting continues. Along with the library, the Karplus clan partitioned the container to accommodate a computer lab. The school only has one computer so they are working on securing more to send, with appropriate software.

"I became very attached to the people in this community and had returned several times after my Peace Corps stint to help out," Betty says. "I'm delighted that we could do this project for them."

The new library is just one area where Betty has served others. Several years after returning home from Jamaica the first time, she noted an article in *The San Francisco*

Chronicle about President Clinton's new Americorps program. Under their auspices, in 2000, 2001, she taught in a public school in Tongxiang, China.

The Karplus family has lived in Orinda since 1955. Betty's late husband Bob was a noted physics professor at UC Berkeley. He developed a K-8 science curriculum which had much of its formative development at Glorietta Elementary School. Betty served on the Orinda School Board for two terms, and in 1983, was named Orinda's Citizen of the Year.

After their son Peter was born with cerebral palsy, Betty worked to help him in every way she could, including becoming a credential teacher for the handicapped. She was involved in the state's pilot special education secondary school resource specialist program at Campolindo High School where she worked for 18 years. She also

taught the special education mainstreaming component of the credential program at Mills College and did assessments for Merritt College's Disabled Student Program. Using her science background, Betty has volunteered for many years in El Sobrante Schools, "whenever I'm home," she explains.

"This was the best party I could have been given, Betty says. "Bob and I were both taught to be useful where there was a need to fill. The library project certainly fit this criteria, After Jamaica became independent in the 60s, a bookmobile came twice a month to Lethe. Soon the money ran out and the kids and adults haven't had access to books since then," Betty explains.

"At the end of our week in Jamaica, I was glad to see children coming in the building, very excited to have all those books from which to choose, and then take some home to read," she adds. "I'm so pleased our family could provide this gift to the town of Lethe for my 85th birthday."



The Karplus clan had this steel container sent ahead and then added electrical wiring, shelving and more to make it into a library.

Bekki Van Voorhis-Gilbert for Orinda Schools

"In addition to serving as an active volunteer in school affairs for many years, I have spent the last 18 months attending OUSD Board Meetings and talking with parents, teachers and concerned citizens about what is and what is not working in our schools. While test scores remain high, this is just one measure of how well the district is functioning. Having educated myself about our district and examined how other local school boards operate, I know with new leadership and a fresh perspective the OUSD Board can be more efficient, better protect children and teachers during the difficult economic years ahead and create a culture of collaboration." Bekki Gilbert, JD, MSW, PhD

My Credentials:

- Active Community and Parent Volunteer
- Former Tenured Professor at CSUH/CSUEB
- Author of books and articles on Social Policy
- Attorney-at-Law

What I Stand For:

- Fiscal Integrity and Academic Excellence during Difficult Economic Times
- Responsiveness to Parent, Teacher and Community
- Transparency in Process and Communication
- Advancement of 21st Century Student Skills

Endorsements and Supporters

Partial list of endorsements

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- Hon. Ken Berrick, Alameda County Board (of Education, Trustee Area 3)
- Hon. Mary Nejedly Piepho, Supervisor, District III, Contra Costa County
- Hon. Susan McNulty Rainey, Mayor Walnut Creek
- Hon. Tomi Van de Brooke, Contra Costa Community College District, Governing Board
- Hon. Gary Yancey, Former Contra Costa County, District Attorney

Current and Former Orinda Teachers

- Yvonne Anast
- Sue Boudreau
- Barbara Burkhalter
- Lisa Disbrow
- Leslie Eppinger
- Alison Gabel
- Julie Ritzman
- Linda Mizos
- Dayle Okamitsu
- Karen Snelson
- Marta Wallace
- Past and Current Parent Club Board Members
- Cathie Barrows
- Monica Brun
- Megan Cohen

- Kimberley Coleman
- Katherine Durealt
- Elizabeth Haughey
- Sarah Lee
- Denise Tuemmler
- Carrie Smith
- Lorree Swinton
- Tricia Young

Orinda Association Volunteer of the Year and William Penn Mott Jr., Environmental Awards Recipients:

- Jenny Papka, 2009
- Steve Gentry, 2008
- Reg & Kathy Barrett, 2007
- Dr. Gene Gottfried, 2007
- Maya Rappaport, 2006
- Linda Mizos, 2003
- Ron & Rosemary Clendenen, 2001
- Pete & Amelia Wilson, 1998
- Toris Jaeger, 1993

Friends and Community Members

- Heather & Dave Anderson
- Erik Andersen
- Affi Ansari
- Failin Au
- Tarek & Marcella Azzani
- Shanen & Aline Aghababian
- Beth Allen
- Carol Alvord
- Shaun Ansel
- Tom Appelbaum
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- Herb & Jeri Foster
- Dwight & Jane Foster
- Joe & Elaine Frank
- Thelma Fung
- Victor Ghavamzadeh
- Gary Gibbs
- Evan & Victoria Gilbert
- Lawrence & Debra Gilbert
- John Gripp & Lisa Copass
- Cameron C. Habel & Debbie Lindemann
- Steven Harrison & Tina Chou
- Pete & Liz Haughey
- Jeff & Jeanie Hocking
- Anne Hoppe
- Tammy Hoeffel
- Lois Hoy
- Mitch & Michele Houston
- Bert & Cathleen Huang
- Bill Hudson
- Kay Jacuzzi
- Paul D. Jones & Alyce Werdel
- Aline Jelalian
- Bob & Ann Marie Kadie
- Heather Karachi
- Jim & Julie Kirchberg
- Jeff Klingman & Deborah Sedberry

- William Knapp
- Katherine Korn
- Jeff Kostermans
- Michael Kruezelman & Barbara Boster
- John & Inez Hollander-Lake
- Patrick & Gayle Maroney
- Van Lam & Nancy Cha-Lam
- Steve & Cathy Lambert
- Edwin & Sarah Lee
- Kenn & Gretchen Lewis
- Mark Lim & Tiona Bostick
- Mare & Melanie Loney
- Teresa Long
- Robert & Ursula Lowe
- Chris & Mary Lloyd
- Jack & Lynne Lloyd
- Dan & Jennifer Lyons
- Devin & Kim Mays
- Fred Matteson & Anne Barr
- Gail Robinson Mead
- Laura Meyers
- Ed Mein
- Mike & Mary Moran
- Sharon Nieto
- Peter & Deepa Nugent
- Tom Ohlson
- Michael & Karen Ostrach
- Ayala Oshri
- Andrea Wood-Packwood
- John & Susie Parr
- Diane Petak
- Will & Liz Pemble
- Tom & Liz Piatt
- Roberto & Lynne Fox Piccioni
- Wayne Phillips
- Brad & Lisa Pugh

- Karen Rhodes
- Matt & Julie Ritzman
- Mark & Deborah Sanford
- Cassandra Simmel
- Karl & Leslie Schonborn
- Suzanne Schoenfeld
- Robert & Joni Binder Shwartz
- Fred Smith
- Greg & Gina Smith
- Craig & Carolyn Stewart
- John & Colleen Supran
- Christy Blackie-Taylor
- Matt & Nancy Taylor
- Sarah Taines
- Anna Tauge
- Rain Tauge
- Brian & Denise Tuemmler
- Romeo Uriarte & Sara Carr
- Nancy Ung
- Marc & Martine van der Laan
- Susan Vandegrift
- Laura Van Voorhis
- Thomas W. Van Voorhis
- Lianne Voelm
- Charlie & Doaa Vollmer
- Jerry & Helen Vurek
- Brian Waters
- David Wallace
- Melanie Flum-West
- Daniel & Deborah Cahn Weiner
- Jill Weinstein
- Sheng-Chuan & Meilan Wu
- Karen Wood
- Ben & Joanna Wood
- Gary & Vicky Yancey
- Jaime Zaffanella



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CONTINUATIONS

◆ WILDER from page 1

to the freeway. The Emergency Vehicular Access (EVA) route that will come out near McDonnell's Nursery on Moraga Road will be restricted to emergency vehicles; although, pedestrians and bicyclists will have access.



COURTESY OF WILDER

Framing is nearing completion at **Wilder's Quarry House**. The private recreation and swim center—which is situated on approximately five acres overlooking the valley below – will feature a state-of-the-art swimming facility, fitness center, yoga room, and areas to gather and socialize. Construction will be completed in 2011.

Of the 1,600 acres, 1,300 acres are dedicated open space and will be deeded to the East Bay Regional Parks District and East Bay MUD. A walking and biking trail system will hook up with the Robert Sibley Volcanic Preserve, the East Bay Regional Park District, the Huckleberry Botanic Regional Preserve, the Lafayette Reservoir, and downtown Orinda. Trails within the Wilder community will be maintained by Wilder residents and covered by Homeowners Association dues. "Eventually the hope is, with some other connections through privately held land, that the trails will go all the way down to San Leandro Reservoir," said Wilder project manager Michael Olson.

Construction on the first two sports fields will start soon. "The first two will be all-

weather turf and lighted. The other three fields will be regular grass," explained Olson. "After the completion of the fields, they will be turned over to the City of Orinda and run by the Parks and Recreation Department. The fields will accommodate football, baseball, soccer, lacrosse and

rugby." The last of the playing fields will be completed in 2014 or 2015. Access to the fields does not require entering the residential area of the development.

Housing parcels range from ½ acre to 1 acre with houses ranging from 2,500 to 5,500 square feet. A model home, scheduled for completion next summer, is currently under construction. The housing pads are either all cut or all fill, so that there will be no differential settlement in the houses. There are 245 lots with 18 different plans available. The planning department has already approved all of the plans.

The Quarry House Recreation Center will be operational in early summer of next year. The private facility will open to all Wilder residents. It will include an 8-lane, 25-yard, full-sized swimming pool, chang-

◆ ELECTIONS from page 1

litigation and employment law experience, feels her volunteer position as Del Rey Elementary School's litigation representation gives her important insight into the budgetary process.

On October 13, the five candidates for Orinda City Council gathered at the Orinda Library auditorium for the Orinda Association sponsored forum. Sharon Burke from the League of Women Voters moderated the event. Approximately 130 people listened to candidates Tom McCormick (incumbent), Dean Orr, Sue Severson (incumbent), Amy Worth (incumbent), and Scott Zeller answer six prepared questions as well as numerous questions from the audience. Questions included the candidates opinions on the proposed plan for Orinda's downtown area, how to fix Orinda's crumbling infrastructure, options on senior housing, how to attract downtown retail, whether leaf blowers should be banned, and whether the Moraga Orinda Fire District should be dissolved.

One question particularly helped to clarify candidate's various positions. They were asked to rank their top three priorities for Orinda with the following responses:

McCormick (1) safety/health/education (2) revitalized downtown (3) strong fiscal management; Severson (1) fiscal prudence (2) work together as a community to come up with a solution to failing infrastructure (3) good communication between the City Council and the community; Zeller (1) more citizen involvement (2) roads and infrastructure (3) encourage local businesses to locate in Orinda and encourage property owners to fix up their buildings; Orr (1) greater community involvement to build consensus (2) instill transparency in governmental process (3) work with EB-MUD, PG&E and others to find solution to failing roads; Worth (1) continue sound fiscal management making sure money goes to services (2) maintain excellent schools and safe routes to the schools (3) strengthen Orinda's position regionally since we are affected more and more by decisions made at a regional level.

A debate between incumbent MOFD commissioner John Wyro and challenger Robert Jungbluth had not been scheduled as of press time. Additional information on all candidates running for office in Orinda and links to various newspaper coverage can be found at the League of Woman Voters website www.smartvoter.org.

ing rooms, a workout facility, a Yoga room, lounge, open courtyard, and a caterer's kitchen. "You can see that inspiration for the design of the Quarry House came from the Orinda Country Club," Keanjian said.

An Art and Garden Center is also planned for the new community. As with the sports fields, the center will be owned and operated by the City of Orinda and will be an extension of the Orinda Community Center. "The city is still in the programming stage for this facility," Keanjian explains. "They envision it as an outpost of the Orinda Community Center."

People's reactions at the Quarry Open

House in September were very positive. An Oakland resident said "It'll be great, not a lot of lawns. I think it's an environmentally friendly development, and I hope it all works out." Another woman exclaimed "I'm very excited. My son's already bought one."

Sandy Jones, a volunteer with the Friends of the Orinda Library and resident of Sleepy Hollow said "I'm pleased with what they've done. It will be sort of confined, which I think was a big concern for many of us. They seem to have done a nice job."


For more information on the development, go to www.orindawilder.com.

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www.smartvoter.org/vote/krumholz

CALENDAR

ON THE CALENDAR

NOVEMBER

- 1 **Orinda Library Art Gallery** features the Clay Arts Guild and acrylic and oil paintings of Jennifer Wolpert through Nov. 30.
- 3 **Orinda Intermediate School** Bulldog Theater Company presents *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*, through Nov. 6, six shows including matinees. For tickets, visit www.orindaschools.org/ois.
- 6 **Orinda Community Church** presents "A Day of Reflection and Conversation on Race" featuring *Traces of the Trade: A Story from the Deep North*, 10 Irwin Way, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Donation \$15.
- 34th Annual Holiday Bazaar**, Orinda Community Center, 9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Arts and crafts, clothing, live entertainment, and more. Call 254-2445.
- 10 **Second Wednesday Book Group** will discuss *Zeitoun* by Dave Eggers, Orinda Books, 276 Village Square, 3 p.m. Call 254-7606.
- 16 **World Affairs Book Group** will discuss *Reflections on the Revolution in Europe: Immigration, Islam, and the West* by Christopher Caldwell, Orinda Books, 276 Village Square, 3 p.m. Call 254-7606.
- 13 **Orinda Books** hosts Thomas Gladys, editor of the new edition of *The Diary of a Lost Girl*, who will discuss the book's history and relationship to the acclaimed film, 276 Village Square, 2 p.m. Call 254-7606.
- 17 **Book Club Forum** presented by Ron Shoop of Random House, a benefit for Project Second Chance, Contra Costa libraries' adult literacy program. Shoop will feature books for holiday giving and make recommendations for book groups. Twenty percent of book sales go to Project Second Chance. Orinda Books, 276 Village Square, 2 p.m. Call 254-7606.
- 18 **Orinda Woman's Club** Festival of Trees, San Ramon Marriott Hotel, 10:30 a.m., 925-963-6356
- 19 **Orinda Books** hosts author Claire Cooper Marcus who will read and discuss *Iona Dreaming: The Healing Power of Place*. Marcus spent a 6-month solitary retreat on the remote Scottish island of Iona, where she reviewed the life that brought her to that magical place, 276 Village Square, 2 p.m. Call 254-7606.

AT THE LIBRARY

- All events are free unless otherwise specified. Please note the library will be closed on Nov. 11, 24 and 25.
- 2 **Origami for Fun!** Learn to fold animals and boxes. For ages 5 and up, all skill levels welcome. Tutoring Room, 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Also Nov. 16 and 23.
- 3 **Paws to Read: Children** grades 1 through 5 practice their reading with a friendly dog listener, 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Sign up for a 25-minute session. Also Nov. 10. Weekend Paws to Read is Saturday, Nov. 6, 2:30 to 3:30 p.m.
- 4 **Friends of the Orinda Library Book Sale**, Bookshop and Sorting Room, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- 7 **One-on-One Computer Help** for adults, 1 to 3 p.m. Call 254-2184 to set up an appointment. Also on Nov. 14.
- 9 **Creative Movement for Little Ones**, preschoolers and toddlers are invited to jump, roll and dance. Caregivers may join in too, 10:30 to 11:15 a.m.
- 15 **Tell It! Tales for Young Children**, a storyteller weaves Tall Tales adapted for 3- to 5-year-olds, Tutoring Room, 1 to 1:30 p.m.
- 25 **Tale Spinners Story Swap**, storytelling for adults, with featured storyteller and time for open microphone. Tell your own story, or just come to listen, 7 to 8 p.m.
- 30 **Toddler Lapsit**, stories, songs and fingerplays for infants to 3-year-olds and their caregivers, 10:30 to 10:55 a.m.
- Berkeley Repertory Theatre** docent talks about the theatre's holiday production, *Lemony Snicket's The Composer is Dead*, 7 p.m.

For more information on library programs, call 254-2184.

CLUB MEETINGS

- Diablo Star Chapter #214, Order of the Eastern Star**. Second Monday, 7:30 p.m., Orinda Masonic Center. Contact Karen Seaborn, 925-689-0995.
- Friends of the Joaquin Moraga Adobe**. Third Monday, 7:30 p.m., Moraga-Orinda Fire District Conference Room, 1280 Moraga Way, Moraga. www.moragaadobe.org.
- Friends of the Orinda Creeks**. Fourth Wednesday, 8:30 a.m., May Room, Orinda Library. Call 253-1997.
- Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary**. Every Friday, 7 a.m., Postino's in Lafayette 254-0440, ext.463.
- Lamorinda Toastmasters**. Every Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., Temple Isaiah, 3800 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. www.lamorinda.freetoasthost.net.
- Montelindo Garden Club**. Third Friday, Orinda Community Church, 10 Irwin Way, 9 a.m. www.montelindogarden.com.
- Orinda Rotary**. Every Wednesday at noon, Community Center, 254-2222.
- Orinda Association**. Second Monday, 7:15 p.m., Orinda Library, May Room, 254-0800.
- Orinda Hiking Club**. Please visit our website at www.orindahiking.org or call 253-1465 for schedule of upcoming hikes.
- Orinda Historical Society**. Third Wednesday of the month, 3 to 5 p.m., OHS Museum, 254-1353. Orinda Historical Society Holiday Dinner, Orinda Community Church, 10 Irwin Way, 6 p.m., social, 7 p.m., dinner. Call 254-1353 for reservations. Everyone welcome.
- Orinda Job's Daughters**. First and third Monday, 7 p.m., 9 Altarinda Road, 925-283-7176.
- Orinda Juniors** community service group. First Tuesday of the month, September to June, 7 p.m. Contact Diane Petek and Ann Sullivan at orinda.juniors@yahoo.com for location.
- Orinda/Tabor (Czech Republic) Sister City Foundation**. Fourth Thursday of the month, 7 p.m. social, 7:30 p.m. meeting, call 254-8260 for location.
- Orinda Teen Advisory Council**. Second Wednesday of the month, 4 p.m., Orinda Community Center, 28 Orinda Way. For information, email orindateenadvisorycouncil@gmail.com.
- Orinda Woman's Club**. Second Tuesday, 9:30 a.m. to noon; call Jean Barnhart, 254-3881.

CITY/FIRE/SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING SCHEDULE

- Acalanes Union High School District**. First and third Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m., district office, 1212 Pleasant Hill Road, Lafayette.
- City Council**. First and third Tuesdays, 7 p.m., Library Auditorium, www.cityoforinda.org. Historic Landmarks Committee. Fourth Tuesday, 3 to 5 p.m., Library Garden Room. Call 925-788-7323.
- Moraga-Orinda Fire District**. Third Wednesday, 7 p.m., Administration Building, 1280 Moraga Way, Moraga.
- Orinda Union School District Board of Trustees**. Second Monday, 4 p.m., OUSD Conference Room, 8 Altarinda Road. For the latest listing of dates, please check the website at www.orindaschools.org.
- Planning Commission**. Second and Fourth Tuesdays, 7 p.m., Library Auditorium, www.cityoforinda.org.

Send calendar items to Maggie Sharpe at m.sharpe66@gmail.com

Holiday Bazaar Offers Gifts Galore

By MAGGIE SHARPE
Staff Writer

Dechen Lama-Luna will once again be selling her hand-woven Himalayan cashmere shawls and scarves at the Community Center's Holiday Bazaar on November 6.

"This is one of my best shows, fun, easy and rewarding," says Lama-Luna. "The show has an uplifting energy and is planned and executed very well."

Lama-Luna is excited to present some of her fall 2010 designs. "My latest is the Crystal Shawl, which is Swarovski crystal on luxurious all-year Himalayan cashmere blend," says Lama-Luna.

Dechan Designs will be just one of many vendors selling a variety of wares at the 34th Annual Holiday Bazaar, including organic skin care, jewelry, original art, home décor, holiday decorations, specialty foods, children's clothing, and handmade greeting cards.

Orinda resident Marcella Austenfeld, who owns Good to Go Jewelry, says she usually sells her handmade items through home-hosted trunk shows. She decided to show her wares at this year's Holiday Bazaar because it's in her hometown.

"Many of my customers are local and the location is a good gathering place to draw in the local support," says Austenfeld, who will be showcasing her unique bracelet designs. "I hope the bazaar will continue to incorporate local artists and vendors," says Austenfeld.

The bazaar is sponsored by the Orinda Community Center Auxiliary (OCCA), a non-profit organization founded in 1976. The OCCA donates all profits from the event to the Parks and Recreation Department. "I am excited that the OCCA is bringing back the holiday bazaar," says OCCA



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Dechen Lama-Luna hand weaves Himalayan cashmere shawls.

member Susan Stephan. "Chairwoman Jennifer Robb has done a terrific job bringing the community together through this event. She has also involved the Orinda Teen Advisory Council, who will offer face painting at the bazaar."

Other attractions include live music and dancing, children's arts and crafts activities, Scooter the Clown, Girl Scouts selling handmade ornaments and specialty nuts, and Cub Scouts performing a flag-raising ceremony.

"It's a great event with entertainment and unique shopping for the upcoming holiday season," says Stephan.

The Holiday Bazaar will be held Saturday, Nov. 6 from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Orinda Community Center, 28 Orinda Way. For more information call 254-2445 or email occabazaar@yahoo.com.

Artisan and Wine Faire

By SHERRY BENZIE
Contributing Writer

A wide variety of artisans will again display their work at the annual Artisan and Wine Faire held at the Orinda Country Club, 315 Camino Sobrante, Orinda, on Thursday, November 18 from 4 – 8 p.m.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Whimsical and functional are the hallmarks of Gerry Wallace's creations.

This festive event offers an array of unique creativity from local craftsmen happy to discuss their artwork with you. Several wineries will be offering samples, and you may purchase your favorite at the event.

Gail Solt will again display some of the gemstones and beads she has collected from around the world to make into sumptuous necklaces. On a recent visit to Hawaii, Solt met a fellow artist from the University of Hawaii, and together they designed some beautiful pieces showing a distinctive Hawaiian influence.

A new artist this year will show her intricate bead baskets. Sandra Wooten once lived in Santa Fe and designs influenced by Native Americans can still be seen in her work. Each small basket offers its own unusual woven pattern created bead by bead. Symbols become an integral part of many

[SEE ARTISAN page 26]

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Exercise to the Zumba Beat

By FRAN MILLER
Staff Writer

Zumba – the one-of-a-kind fitness program fusing hypnotic Latin rhythms and easy-to-follow dance moves - has arrived in Orinda and participants aren't sure if it's an exercise class or a celebration.

"I love it," says Orindan Elizabeth Hoover who has been attending classes for the past month. "It feels more like dancing, but it is really great exercise, and it's fun!"

With the tag line "Join the Party," Zumba's goal is to win over participants with high-energy, calorie-burning sessions where fast and slow Latin beats and resistance training are combined to tone and sculpt the body while burning fat. "Zumba is for everyone," says instructor Rigel

nity. She first happened upon Zumba while living in Holland; she has been teaching for six months. "When I first attended a Zumba class, it was very natural for me," says Cedeño. "Being South American, I was accustomed to the songs and different Latin rhythms; I have been dancing salsa and merengue my whole life; I know this music really well. As an instructor, I've just had to learn the fitness side of it."

Zumba instructors are free to put their own spin on the variety of dance moves covered during a class. During the hour (or 45 minutes for Zumba Gold), dances such as samba, the mambo, cha-cha, and rumba are covered, with a little hip-hop or belly dancing thrown in. Participants learn by watching and mimicking the instructor's movements, which include three to four steps per dance. Coaching is minimal; there are no shouted instructions.

"My classes are very friendly and are not intimidating at all," says Cedeño. "Everyone is welcome, and everyone fits right in, no matter their level of fitness, or ability to dance."

Cedeño is trained in both traditional Zumba, and Zumba Gold (for the active older adult population, and true beginners.) Currently, Zumba classes are offered at the Orinda Community Center on Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. and Thursdays at 7 p.m. Zumba Gold is offered Mondays and Thursdays at 9:30 a.m.

Created by celebrity fitness trainer Beto Perez, Zumba has become a worldwide phenomenon and is taught at over 60,000 locations in 105 countries, with 7.5 million participants taking Zumba classes every week.

"It's simply a lot of fun," says Cedeño. "I call it exercise in disguise."

For more information on the Orinda Community Center classes, call 254-2445.



SALLY HOGARTY
Zumba Gold instructor **Rigel Cedeño** leads a class at the Orinda Community Center.

Cedeño, who teaches four classes weekly at the Orinda Community Center. "It's just like dancing; and even if you don't know how to dance, you can just move your body and enjoy the music. Everyone enjoys the Latin music."

Cedeño is a native Venezuelan and is new to Orinda, having moved here from Holland for her husband's new job with Shell. They have a two-year-old daughter. Signing up to teach Zumba was a natural way for Cedeño to get involved in her new commu-

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Jan Kessler



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Move of the Month



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When feeling stable place your second leg on the stability ball. Keep your abs contracted and your back lifted.

For the ultra advanced version, place toes on the second ball.

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Exercisers Celebrate 35th Anniversary



MAGGIE SHARPE

More than two dozen current members and alumni of Lafayette, Orinda, Moraga, Exercise (LOME) class celebrated the group's 35th anniversary with a nautical-themed luncheon on September 21 at Terzetto Cuisine in Moraga. "We're celebrating 35 years of happy, healthy, sailing through classes," says 83-year-old Madelyn Yates of Orinda, who has been a member of LOME since it started. The class meets

three days a week at 7:30 a.m. at the Masonic Hall in Orinda for low-impact aerobics and weight training. Above, the group gathers for a picture outside Terzetto before lunch, including the most senior member of LOME, 93-year-old Mary Grah (sitting far right), who has lived in Orinda since 1950. Steven Strauss and Carol Siegal (left with ukuleles) provided musical entertainment for the festivities.

– Maggie Sharpe

Living Lean Marathon Exercise For a Cause

On November 13, Living Lean is sponsoring a half-day marathon exercise session. Registration is \$40 with all proceeds to benefit SHELTER, INC. The marathon is open to all, and you can participate as much or as little as you like.

Exercises included in the session will be:

- 1 hour spin with Sheena
- 30 minute Abs Blast with Tristan
- 30 minute Body Sculpt Bootcamp with Laney
- 30 minute Stretch with Vera
- 30 minute Fun Run with Dan
- 1 hour Cardio Kickboxing with Sebastian
- 1 hour break with refreshments provided by Shellys

SHELTER, Inc. is an independent, charitable, nonprofit organization founded in 1986 to alleviate Contra Costa County's homeless crisis. Their mission is to help homeless families obtain homes, prevent families from losing their homes, and purchase and maintain affordable housing.

For more information contact Sheena at 925-360-7051.

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SCHOOLS / STUDENTS

YOUTH MATTERS

Technology in Orinda Schools



Sara Duplancic

The role of technology in our AUHSD schools is undoubtedly changing toward a more integrated set-up. Besides the introduction of computers to schools in the 90's, in the past three or four years, Orinda students have witnessed one of the biggest booms in available technology in the classroom.

Last April, the district purchased 10 Apple iPads for experimental use and teacher feedback. Two years ago, Miramonte High School received a classroom set of iPod touches and Flip Video Camcorders (Flip Cams), useful for classes ranging from public speaking and history to video production and journalism.

In 2008, voters passed Measure E, which provides for infrastructure upgrades in technology for educational purposes. The allotment of money from the Measure can only be spent on revamping our district's gadgets and gizmos, whether it includes purchasing entirely new hardware or updating our user interfaces and operating systems.

Cheryl Davis, district curriculum and instruction technology specialist or AUHSD technology coordinator, works on the idea side of bringing new technology to our schools. In addition to helping teachers integrate technology in their classrooms, Davis examines the more innovative ways to apply new hardware and software to our educational experience.

While older generations may not always understand the relevance of technology in today's student's life, Davis says, "as an educator, I see these applications and technologies being used at the college level and in the workforce."

The earlier student/technology integra-

tion begins, the more able students will be in college and the more successful they will be in life if they pursue a path in the tech industry.

Advances and inventions in technology go hand in hand with new courses on how to use, operate and even create these new machines. While our schools offer ample equipment, they may be lacking the instruction necessary for a future, more in-depth relationship with the computer. Miramonte, for example, does not offer a computer science or programming class. But for students, learning to navigate new interfaces is not a challenge, and with Miramonte's course list rich in electives, a lot of students find sufficient pleasure in other classes.

Davis believes that as a community we do understand the value of the technology upgrades in schools. "Having technology integrated with the curriculum is part of our efforts to educate students for their next steps in education, work, and life." In fact, our goal as a district should be to get more technology in the hands of students because it is becoming a natural part of education.

Because we live in the Bay Area, an epicenter in the technology innovation world, it would be nice if our schools provided more advanced courses for students interested in programming or becoming the next Mark Zuckerberg or Steve Jobs.

In order to compete globally and attain positions at prestigious companies like Facebook or Google, our schools would have to devote their resources to classes that offer a more comprehensive understanding of the computer.

Since the invention of the computer, [SEE YOUTH page 24]

Two Local Teens Create Diaper Drive for Newborn Connections



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Conor Bean (L) and Sam Larsen collect diapers to help young families through Newborn Connections.

By KRISTIN RASMUSSEN
Contributing Writer

Sam Larsen and Conor Bean, both seniors at Miramonte High School, have created a community service project to serve families in need in Contra Costa County. The boys will be collecting diapers for Newborn Connections, a division of the Child Abuse Prevention Council of Contra Costa County.

Newborn Connections provides in-home visits and supplies to struggling families with new babies throughout the county. "Most of these families are facing hardships and diapers are expensive," says Bean. Both boys have collected diapers for Newborn Connections in the past, but adds Larsen, "We wanted to come up with a way to provide diapers to Newborn Connections on a regular basis."

The first participant in the new program is The Orinda Preschool (TOPS). The

school's families will be able to donate diapers through the Newborn Connections donation bin located on site.

For more information on placing a diaper collection bin in your school or place of business, please contact Conor Bean and Sam Larsen at 925-376-9156. For more information on Newborn Connections, please contact Rose Marie Wallace, Project Coordinator, at 925-798-0546.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

◆ **YOUTH** from page 23

most people have understood that the future holds job opportunity in the tech industry, and the rapid expansion of the Internet and inventions like the iPod, iPhone, and iPad have only confirmed it.

As a community, we need to embrace the technology revolution and harness the opportunities it brings with it, especially for the youth. After all, reading *Hamlet* or *Romeo and Juliet* on an iPad versus in a physical book won't stop Hamlet from dying and Romeo and Juliet from loving each other. The only change will be that we're reading with more style – 21st century style.

◆ **LETTERS 3** from page 18

re-development plan? What won't this city council put the proposed downtown plan on the ballot for a vote by the citizens? Why won't this city council listen to Orinda's citizens?

Scott Zeller has more actual leadership experience, than any of the other candidates, with more than 15 years heading up a government agency with a larger budget and more employees than the City of Orinda. Scott Zeller knows how to oversee a large organization and how to interact with various constituencies, including unions. He is also not a real estate, pro-developer insider. Scott Zeller has pledged not to take campaign contributions from them and won't be beholden to them.

Cherish Orinda, as Scott Zeller does.

– Owen Murphy

IT'S TIME

TO CALL

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Support Incumbents

We invite Orindans to join us in support of the three candidates who will bring respect, enthusiasm, consideration, integrity, knowledge and the real meaning of volunteerism to our community.

We need proven leaders of whom we can be proud and, therefore, are endorsing: Amy Worth, Sue Severson and Dean Orr for Orinda City Council!

Join us.

– Dick Heggie, Bobbie Landers

Leaders with Intelligence

In reponse to Valerie Sloven's hyperbolic "Need Leaders with Vision" opinion letter, let's put a few facts on the table. Scott Zeller is not against a "revitalization plan" for downtown Orinda. Nor are supporters of Scott Zeller people "who constantly rage against anything that is supported by government for the good of the community..." What Scott Zeller and his supporters are for is an intelligent approach to city planning as well as getting the roads paved.

The present council, in seeking to increase Orinda's sales tax base, hired a retail consultant who informed them that raising Orinda's building height restrictions would not accomplish that objective because the intended first floor retail space would not be greater than the present footprint for retail stores, given – as Valerie put it – Orinda's scarce land. Nonetheless, unlike Scott Zeller, the council's revitalization task force chooses to ignore this important factor and wants to draw the interest of developers with the lure of multi-story residential units. Understand: the task force's interest is not in a professional with a comprehensive vision for a viable residential and retail plan, e.g. a city planner or urban architect. They seek developers whose function and

competence does not encompass a city's historical aesthetics, architectural continuity, traffic flow patterns, infrastructure planning, environmental sustainability, financial realities, and a host of other issues so necessary to a successful overall city design.

Sitting on this task force is the "developer" of Theatre Square. Would you call that a success story? Do you wonder why when turning out of the post office parking lot onto Orinda Way, you inescapably find yourself in the lane of oncoming traffic? To quote Valerie Slove, "What little [land] we have should be used wisely." Valerie should reconsider whose approach is the "wiser" and vote for Scott Zeller.

– Charlie Brown

Support Sue Severson for Another Term

For many years, Sue Severson has brought great energy and resourcefulness to the many challenges facing Orinda. From infrastructure to the arts, Sue has worked to bring the community together to meet these challenges. Sue actively involves all interested parties in the community, listens to every point of view and attempts to build consensus to develop the best plan of action for Orinda. Her approach in public service is to maintain a respectful attitude toward all participants in the process, foster open and responsive communication, and focus intently on fiscal responsibility.

In her current term on the City Council, she serves on several key city committees, including the Audit Committee, the Finance Advisory Committee, the Traffic Safety Advisory Committee, the Public Works Aesthetics Review, and the Lamorinda School Bus Program.

Our city has benefited greatly from all of her hard work both on our City Council and in her previous role as Orinda School Board Member. Orinda needs capable, responsible City Councilmembers like Sue to keep our city strong. Sue believes that we succeed in maximizing the quality of life in Orinda only through a collaborative effort partnering with the community, schools and business.

Please join us in voting for Sue Severson for Orinda City Council.

– Mark and Marcie Tuttle

Scott Zeller for the Orinda City Council

Vote for Scott Zeller for the Orinda City Council. He is the only candidate strongly and openly opposed to a change in our downtown building height. The current Orinda City Council is considering amending the Orinda General Plan to allow downtown building heights of 55 plus feet

on both sides of the freeway. Our Mayor, Tom McCormick, who is running for re-election has come out strongly in favor of raising our height limit. Councilmembers Sue Severson and Amy Worth, who are also running for re-election, won't tell us their position on the height issue. Dean Orr, running for election to the city council, hasn't told us his position.

This is the most important issue that has faced our community since incorporation. We became the City of Orinda because of building height issues during the development of "Theater Square." To amend the general plan to allow five story buildings downtown is a major step backward. The citizens of Orinda didn't want large multi-story buildings at that time, and we don't want multistory buildings now. We have one of the most pleasant semi-rural towns in the U.S.

Vote only for Scott Zeller. Do not cast votes for those running for election who want to change Orinda. Do not cast your vote for those who won't tell us what they think. Cast one vote only, for Scott Zeller.

– Kent Hagen

Support Sue Severson

We have been residents of Orinda for over 50 years. We remember well when Orinda was incorporated with Dick Heggie as our first mayor. Since that time, we have seen many fine men and women serve on the city council. Sue Severson is one of the most dedicated and talented workers we have ever had. We are supporting her for another term in office.

– Ann and Lee Sorenson

Zeller and Our Village

Our family supports Scott Zeller for the Orinda City Council. The only vote that I am casting is for him, and we hope others will do the same.

Many residents moved here because of its village atmosphere. Think of vibrant Danville, Carmel and Mill Valley with their cozy store fronts. Beautification and smart revitalization is the better approach in Orinda.

Zeller is the only candidate, through his public statements, who wants to keep Orinda at a human scale.

And yet now, with the proposed downtown plan, we are to believe that suddenly it would benefit Orindans to raise our structures to a height of 55-70 feet (up from 35'), have underground parking, raze city blocks with their accompanying small businesses, deal with construction, maneuver through traffic congestion, and have our city become a contrived beige town with chains.

Also, I submit that we are not "cutting ourselves off from the outside world," as a recent letter to *The Orinda News* suggested.

No, the plan is to construct affordable housing with the Eden Senior Project on the old library site – along with affordable homes to be built by Pulte Homes at Pine

[SEE LETTERS 4 page 26]

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SCHOOLS / STUDENTS

Orinda Boy wins Bridge to Bridge Race



Jack Nader (center), a 5th grader at Del Rey Elementary School, placed first in his age group and 453rd out of 2,320 total 12k runners at the October 3 Bridge to Bridge run in San Francisco. The run benefits Northern California Special Olympics.

A Most Generous Supporter of Literacy

By **KIRSTEN THEURER**
Principal, Del Rey Elementary School

This week I had one of those experiences that just knocked my socks off, and I thought I would share the experience with you.

As lunch recess came to a close I walked back in to the busy hum of the front office to find Liz greeting a gentleman at the front counter and doing her best to field his questions. She introduced me as the site principal, and the gentleman proceeded to ask me what the best way to make a donation to Del Rey School might be.

Always ready to accept donations, I entered into a conversation with this man. He quickly let me know that he was not a relative or friend of any student at Del Rey, but rather was a student at Del Rey the first year it opened. He recalled going to school at Orinda Elementary and watching closely as Del Rey was constructed all those years ago, and the excitement he felt being one of the first students to attend our school.

Michael Arkelian expressed how this school had got him started on the right track, and after attending a total of six educational institutions, the last being UC Hastings in San Francisco, he wanted to give something back. Arkelian visits his mother's Orinda home often, and has fond memories of attending Del Rey School. He is passionate about literacy and tutors adults in the area of reading. He asked that his donation support literacy at Del Rey. I assured him that literacy was a priority. He quietly asked if he could write me a check.

I didn't turn him down. He leaned across the counter, check in hand, and thanked me. I took the check, and my eyes widened as I realized that the donation was for \$10,000 dollars! Babbling through a thank you, I

remember saying something about how generous he was. Just as he entered our office, he smiled and quietly walked away.

There are good, generous people in the world. This is one way I can honor him. So... thank you, from all the students and families at Del Rey School, Mr. Arkelian! You are supporting building classroom libraries and professional resources in the area of literacy for all of us.

NorCal Kids Triathlon



A young girl competes in the 4th-5th grade division.

The second annual NorCal Kids Triathlon was a resounding success. Students from kindergarten through high school competed in running, swimming and biking events. A complete list of winners is available at www.finishline-production.com/results.html

Two Local Students Awarded Fulbright Scholarships

Orinda residents Lauren Finzer and Shalini Dixit have both been awarded Fulbright Scholarships.


Finzer, who graduated from Miramonte High School in 2005 and from Stanford's Human Biology Program in June 2009, is currently in India on a Fulbright grant. While at Stanford, Finzer concentrated in sustainability in the global environment and health. She also interned at the Environmental Defense Fund and at the World Bank Inspection Panel, the independent accountability mechanism of the World Bank in Washington, D.C. After graduation, Finzer was awarded a Ford Fellowship to spend a year working in the Global Development program of the Hewlett Foundation. Her Fulbright research involves investigating the effects of the rapid rise of supermarkets in India on fruit and vegetable consumption in the context of public health policy.

Shalini Dixit, a 2010 graduate of Northwestern University, has been awarded a Fulbright U.S. Student Program scholarship to study biological sciences in Spain. Northwestern led the nation in Fulbright scholars garnering 32 of the approximately 1,500 in the United States for the 2010-2011 academic year.

The Fulbright Program, established in 1946, is the flagship international educational exchange program sponsored by the U.S. government. It has given approximately 300,000 scholars the opportunity to study, teach and conduct research, exchange ideas and contribute to finding solutions to shared international concerns. Fulbright alumni have achieved distinction in government, science, the arts, business, philanthropy, education and athletics.



Orinda resident **Lauren Finzer** has been awarded a Fulbright Scholarship to investigate the rapid rise of supermarkets in India.



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BUSINESS BUZZ

◆ BUZZ from page 28

watch the chef's preparation. We intentionally created a plan that puts guests in the kitchen," explains Karp, who has 20 years experience in the restaurant and beverage industry. Ivry and Karp became acquainted during their Master's swim workouts at Meadow Pool two years ago, and when Ivry learned of Karp's restaurant experience, the two set about to create Table 24. The name is associated with Highway 24 and reflects their plan to attract guests from Berkeley, Oakland, Lafayette, Walnut Creek - communities all along the Highway 24 corridor.

Executive Chef Kelly Hatcher designed and managed the kitchen at Fogeaters Market and Kitchen in Mendocino and led the team at West Side Bakery and Café in Berkeley. She has experience serving as a personal chef to clients with specific nutritional needs. "I am excited to team with Michael and Victor in bringing traditional and familiar dishes to this community," says Hatcher. Dishes high on her list include a Classic Cheeseburger, Lamb Chop Lollipop, the 24 Chop Salad and Wood Stone Pizzas.

At Table 24, you will notice the abundance of warm wood in the interior design. Proprietors Ivry and Karp point out there are three sources for the reclaimed wood. The floor was originally installed in a Hops warehouse in Yakima, Washington that dates back to 1918, the tables and bar top were formerly wine casks from Fapaino Vineyards, and the walls are adorned with bleacher seats from Sequoia High School gymnasium in Redwood City. The focal point of the open kitchen is a wood stone oven. The large blackboard features the chef's Market List of items procured at the Farmers' Market and menu specials as well. Natural sunlight cascades into the open floor plan from the new windows that have been installed.

"Everything we have done has been thoughtful. We have taken segments of our community and devised a plan to meet their needs. I have raised three daughters in Orinda over the past 30 years, and I have specific ideas about portions, price, selection and service. In addition to the 'littles' menu for children, we created a 'middles' menu for 7-13 year olds, who have outgrown the children's menu but are not yet ready for adult portions. Table 24 is probably the first restaurant to address this age group," says Ivry. In addition to 30 years of experience in commercial real estate, Ivry has been a swim coach to three generations of Orindans at Meadow Pool. "I am in touch with the swimming world and some of the kids I coached are now grandparents. Our objective here at Table 24 is to provide the Orinda community with a wonderful neighborhood food experience," adds Ivry.

"The City of Orinda has embraced this project, and we are excited about our partnership with the City and the landlord. We are pleased to offer valet parking and will

take reservations," says Ivry. Table 24 is open seven days a week, from 7 a.m. until the last diner leaves at night. For more information, visit the website at www.table24orinda.com or call 254-0124.

Barbara Boster Photography

With over 20 years of experience as a photographer in a variety of capacities including oral photography for dentists, plastic surgery photos, and producing courtroom exhibits, Barbara Boster established Barbara Boster Photography two years ago. Her specialty is photographing families and individual portraits, and she also offers a set hourly rate for photographing estates. "Clients have taken to having their valuable possessions photographed, and they compile a set of cards that includes a description of each item on each card. It is a very good way to inventory and divide an estate," says Boster.

Preferring to shoot outdoors on location, Boster chooses natural lighting over flash photography. "I love the artistic component of photography, especially close-ups and candid shots. It is a pleasure to capture an individual in his or her own natural setting. I have discovered everyone likes having their photo taken, and I believe photos preserve who we are in a specific moment," says Boster.



VALERIE HOTZ

Photographer **Barbara Boster.**

Recognizing the short attention span of some children, Boster likes to use that to her advantage, promising something fun at the end of the shoot. She calls it doing crazy, fun photos and asks clients, "How do you see your family?" She uses this theme as the foundation for garnering a wide range of silly, fun poses. Boster enjoys photographing people who are experiencing big moments in life, such as pregnancy, and creating Christmas greeting card portraits for families (pets may be included).

Using a digital medium, Boster can show clients photos immediately, reassuring those who are camera shy with a positive effect on the session as a whole.

Boster's background includes serving as a technical writer for Citibank. She soon developed a career as an investment advisor for the private client group at Citibank. "I love the artistic part of photography and also shooting business photos as well. I

Chamber of Commerce Restaurant Tour a Huge Success

The Orinda Chamber of Commerce would like to thank the merchants and residents of Orinda who made this year's tour an even bigger success than last year. Sold-out in advance, the tour began at Theatre Square and included restaurants on both sides of town. Participants rode in style from the Crossroads to the Village on motorized cable cars while being serenaded by Orinda Idol finalists.



PHOTOS BY SALLY HOGARTY

(clockwise from top) Citibank sponsored the cable car that took patrons around town; La Piazza was a popular stop; although still under construction, Table 24 served delicious appetizers; young participants enjoyed a dance break at Theatre Square.

feel very fortunate, and I am grateful to be able to do what I love and live a creative life. You make a choice every day, and I am glad I made this choice. Someone once encouraged me to do something permanent everyday, and I embrace that approach by taking a photo every day," she says.

Boster grew up in the East Bay and graduated from St. Mary's College with a bachelor's degree in communications. She moved to Orinda with her husband, Michael Kreutzelman, 10 years ago. The couple has three children. Gabriella is an 8th grader at

Orinda Intermediate School, Max is in the 4th grade at Glorietta School and Tatiana attends 3rd grade at Glorietta School. Boster has been an active community volunteer in many capacities for Orinda Baseball Association, National Charity League, local schools, and the Lombardy Group at Children's Hospital.

For more information, email Boster at bboster1@mc.com or call her at 925-451-5161.



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BUSINESS BUZZ

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Valerie Hotz



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Lamorinda Adult Respite Center-A Place of Laughter and Good Times

Celebrating its 13th year of service to the Lamorinda community, Lamorinda Adult Respite Care (LARC) is a place where individuals with memory loss can actively engage in a range of social activities in a caring environment managed by staff and volunteers. LARC is located at 433 Moraga Way, on the premises of Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church and is administered by Elizabeth Hofinga.

Originally established in 1997 as an outreach project by committed parishioners of Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church that included Mary Moore, Linda Hudak, Diana Wong, Juanita Gilbertson, Russell Bliese and Mary Ostrom, LARC is today a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit and seven years ago was licensed by the State of California as a care facility for individuals with Alzheimer's or other dementia related diseases. Pastor John Valentine is the administrator of the program. The philosophy behind LARC is to encourage families to maintain their aging elder at home as long as possible. This is accomplished through this social program, which operates from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. every weekday.

Elizabeth Hofinga joined LARC as program director six months ago, handling administrative details, insurance issues, and serving as a liaison between participants

and families. A native of Berkeley, she was involved in the upper management of the Junior League of Oakland East Bay for many years, working with seniors and children in the community. Hofinga's three eldest children, John, Robert and Anne, graduated from Miramonte High School and her youngest, Elizabeth, is a 7th grader at Orinda Intermediate School. "I knew I wanted to do something that would really



VALERIE HOTZ
Elizabeth Hofinga of the Lamorinda Adult Respite Center

make a difference in people's lives. The LARC program accomplishes that on a daily basis. We recognize caregivers have a difficult road and need a break from time to time. By providing this safe and caring environment for their loved one, the caregivers have an opportunity once or twice a week to be relieved of their caregiving responsibilities," points out Hofinga.

Hofinga is assisted by two activity leaders, Jill Kuykendall and Cookie Bedford, who lead participants in a wide range of activities including word games, bingo, gardening, arts and crafts, and reading. Two to three times a month a therapy pet pays a visit. "A physical therapist trained our staff in appropriate physical activities for seniors, so we do chair yoga twice a day which gets the blood flowing. One of our favorite times of the day is the 45 minutes devoted to live entertainment. We invite pianists and guitar players, and all of our participants enjoy singing together," says Hofinga. Participants bring their own lunch every day and a morning and afternoon snack is provided. Approximately 35 individuals volunteer every month. Participants range in age from 67 to 98 years and have a wide variety of memory disorders.

A special feature of the LARC program is the fact that the Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church pre-school is located across the way, allowing for intergenerational activities. "The pre-school students come sing for us regularly. They say they are coming to visit grandmas and grandpas and everyone has a great time," smiles Hofinga.

The program is privately funded, which is unusual, as most adult day care programs receive some amount of state funding. LARC receives donations from the congregation of Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church, members of the local community, and grant funders include the Y & H Soda Foundation, John Muir/Mt. Diablo Community Health Fund, and the Joseph R. Parker Foundation. Several families have supported the program over the years and have become lifelong friends of LARC. "We are grateful for their financial, as well as volunteer support," adds Hofinga.

Dr. Ruth Pease facilitates the Lamorinda Caregiver Support Group on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of every month, from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. This class provides education and support for caregivers and everyone is



VALERIE HOTZ
Victor Ivry (L) and Michael Karp bring comfort food to Orinda at their Theatre Square restaurant Table 24.

welcome to come. In addition, Hofinga is happy to have people visit the program and provide a tour of the premises. For more information about LARC, visit www.holy-shepherd.org or email Elizabeth Hofinga at larc@holyshepherd.org. You may also give her a call at 254-3465.

Table 24 – Neighborhood Comfort Food in Theatre Square

Orindans Victor Ivry and Michael Karp have teamed together to bring a California Great Room dining experience offering neighborhood comfort meals with high quality ingredients and efficient service. The concept is built around hearty, yet simple well-executed dishes - something people would prepare in their own kitchens - and in fact Executive Chef Kelly Hatcher is out front preparing the meals, allowing diners into the kitchen so to speak. Burgers, pasta, pizza and salads are put together with a flair that appeals to children, teenagers and adults.

"We created an interactive experience in a very comfortable environment. The whole concept is about food. Our guests can

[SEE BUZZ page 27]

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