



# THE ORINDA NEWS

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## Graduates at Orinda's Three High Schools



ALLY SAWYER

The Orinda News managed to track down graduating seniors at Holden High School, Miramonte High School and Orinda Academy for their thoughts on high school and the future. See page 9. Shown above is Holden High School's senior class: (L-R) top row: **Kate Knox** (Senior Adviser) and seniors **Jamari Mitchell** and **Oden Lowell**; bottom row: seniors **Arjuna Rogers**, **Makari Mayo**, **Cameron Kvech** and **Tony Schliesser**.

## National Main Street Center Presented Report on Downtown Plan

By KATHRYN G. MCCARTY  
Staff Writer

Orinda City Planning Director Drummond Buckley, Mayor Eve Phillips and City Councilmember Inga Miller recently welcomed Dr. Matt Wagner of the National Main Street Center (NMSC) for a presentation regarding preliminary market analysis and transformation strategy for revitalizing downtown Orinda.

Wagner shared results of feedback from interviews with Orinda stakeholders (including city staff, businesses, residents and a variety of local organizations) about potential ways to implement revitalization activities.

"Downtowns aren't cookie cutters," explained Dr. Wagner, who has worked with cities throughout the country to transform their downtown economies. "Orinda residents must play a committed role in order for revitalization to be successful."

Listing principles for revitalization, which included authenticity and experien-

tial experiences, Dr. Wagner spoke of the incredible resources already existing in Orinda including strong neighborhoods, great places to live and good schools. He emphasized the importance of having community vision, grounded with market data.

"We must be efficient in how we think about revitalization and how we will guide it," said Dr. Wagner who spoke of developing new retail activity with businesses which complement one another. With Orinda being very "health conscious," he noted the possibilities of a gourmet grocer or the implementation of a walking path to link Orinda landmarks.

Dr. Wagner spoke of millions of dollars "leaking out" of Orinda when its residents shop in other cities or online, and the vital need to recapture buying power by "motivating people to shop here, by building on strengths that already exist."

Dr. Wagner offered both short and long term ideas about revitalization for the public and City Council to consider. Short [SEE DOWNTOWN page 16]

## Czech List for 4th of July Parade

By DAVID DIERKS  
Assistant Editor

The Orinda Association (OA) is gearing up for the annual 4th of July Parade by creating a new website specifically devoted to the parade: [www.orindaparade.com](http://www.orindaparade.com). On the site, you will find forms to let you participate in the parade, volunteer to help with the parade and/or respond to opportunities to set up booths in the park for after-parade activities. The OA began producing the 4th of July Parade in 1984.

Fourth of July Chair Andrew Radlow notes, "We are looking to get more participants. For every group that participates, we ask for a volunteer from that group who will help us set up the parade, work to manage the flow of the parade or help clean up after the parade." The parade is always looking for content. "It's a lot of fun and it's free to participate," adds Radlow who laughingly implores, "We're calling out to baton twirlers, fire breathers, dancing ladies [SEE 4TH page 16]



SALLY HOGARTY

Young parade watchers enjoy last year's event.

## Three-Quarter Century Luncheon Celebrates "Summer of Love"

By BOBBIE DODSON  
Staff Writer

Orindans 75 years of age and older will have their own opportunity to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the "Summer of Love" at the Three-Quarter Century Club Luncheon, held noon, June 21, at the Orinda Community Church, 10 Irwin Way, Orinda.

"We'll have a love-in of our own as long-time friends gather for appetizers, wine, and a hot chicken lunch with a tasty dessert," says John Fazel, originator and organizer of

this event for the last 18 years. "It's a pleasure to honor the older citizens of our community this way. For some, it's one of the few times of the year they have the chance to socialize with other Orindans." Fazel is hoping to find some tie-dye accessories for the tux he wears every year and encourages attendees to come in sixties attire, if they can.

Also, guests are asked to bring their stories of that era. Dennis Erokkan, the featured speaker, suggests that will be an interesting way to re-experience the summer of 1967. [SEE LUNCHEON page 6]

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## Youth Ink Winners Announced



SALLY HOGARTY

The Orinda Junior Women's Club celebrated young writers at its annual Youth Ink writing contest. This year's prompt was "60 Seconds." (For more information on the Orinda Jrs., email [info@orindajuniors.org](mailto:info@orindajuniors.org).) Shown above are: 1st row - Third-Place **Lydia Gant**, OIS "Sixty Seconds of an Anxiety Attack"; Second Place **Kate Laudy**, Athenian School "The Last Minute"; First Place - **Kirstin Parker**, OIS "So Long, So Short"; Third Place **Kali Sharma**, OIS "Leaving the Life You Love"; 2nd row - Honorable Mentions: **Abby Wallach**; **Malayna Chang**; **Annika Gubser**; **Maxine Pollock**; **Audrey Lambert**; **Devon Bradley** and **Zoey Patterson**. Not shown: **Mia Balonick**, **Kelsey Viadro** and **Lily Wood**.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

**John Fazel** (L) with **Lilly** and **Raim Regelson** who received last year's "Married Longest" award for their 69 years of wedded bliss. Rain was also crowned king.

The Orinda Association congratulates all of Orinda's graduates. [www.orindaassociation.org](http://www.orindaassociation.org)



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CAR SHOW/LOCALS



**Tom Cargill** brought this 1962 340HP Convertible Corvette down from Reno for last year's Classic Car Show.

## Start Up Your Motors and Get Your Kicks on Route 66

By SALLY HOGARTY  
Editor

An extravaganza of Corvettes will greet attendees at Orinda's 13th Annual Classic Car Show. With the famous "Route 66" as its theme and over 60 corvettes from the '50s to today to see, it promises to be another great show.

This year's event takes place Sept. 9 from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. in and around Orinda Motors, 63 Orinda Way, in Orinda Village, and will feature vintage and modern exotic cars and motorcycles, plus food and music.

This family-friendly event is free. Those wishing to make a \$10 donation, however, will have an opportunity to ride in one of

the cars during the "drive" at the close of the show. The popular Dancing with the Cars dinner dance takes place on Sept. 8 at 5:30 p.m. at the Orinda Country Club. Proceeds from both events benefit the Orinda Association's Seniors Around Town transportation service, the Educational Foundation of Orinda and many other local nonprofits.

The car show is now accepting entries. Thanks to an enthusiastic response from last year's vehicle exhibitors, the 12th Annual show sold out. Enthusiasts are encouraged to register their vehicles early. Entries will not be accepted on the day of the show.

For more information, go to [www.orindacarshow.com](http://www.orindacarshow.com).

## Queen Congratulates Locals

By SALLY HOGARTY  
Editor

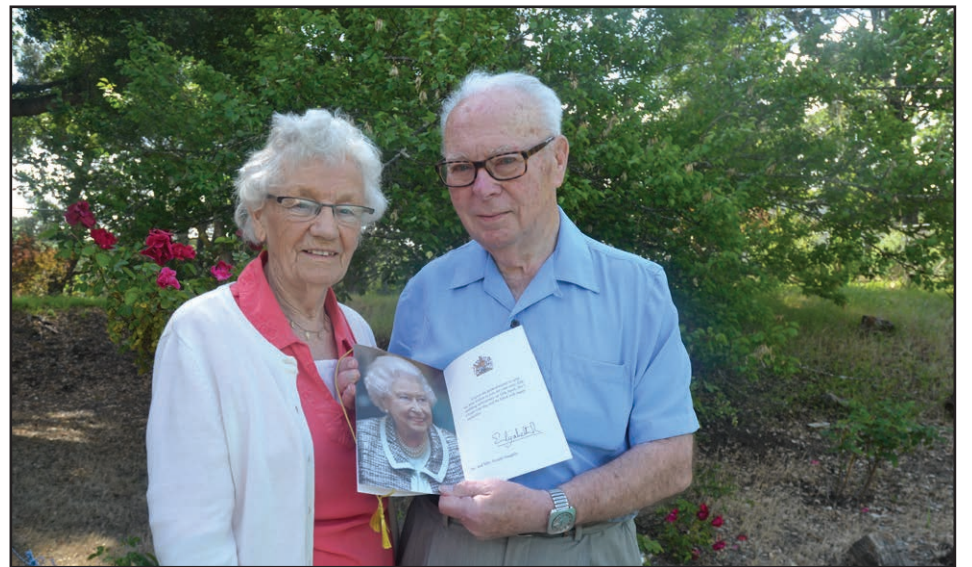
Joe and June Haughin had quite a surprise on April 13 when a postal worker came to their home and asked them to sign for a letter. But this wasn't just any letter.

This letter had Buckingham Palace as the return address along with the royal United Kingdom coat of arms. Inside, the surprised Haughins found the best wishes of Queen Elizabeth for their 65th wedding anniversary. "It arrived the day before our anniversary and we had no idea it was coming," says Joe, an Orinda Association Board Member Emeritus. "It also had a beautiful photo of the Queen."

Originally from England, Joe and June moved to the United States in 1956. Joe became a United States citizen in 1964 and holds dual citizenship in both countries. "Our son Roger and daughter Heather were behind it, and they took us totally by surprise," Joe notes.

When his adult children had asked for a copy of their marriage certificate and passports, Joe thought they might be putting together a memento book. Evidently, Roger remembered that over 30 years prior, his dad had written to the White House and asked President Reagan to send an 80<sup>th</sup> birthday card to his mother Darlene. The youngster had been so impressed that he decided to see if something similar could happen for his parents' anniversary. He found out that Buckingham Palace sends out cards to British couples on their 50<sup>th</sup> and 65th wedding anniversaries upon receipt of confirming paperwork. Roger and Heather began work on this special surprise three months before their parent's April 14 anniversary.

"It's unusual for these cards to be sent outside of the United Kingdom," explains Joe before adding, "This is a real treasure for us." Joe and June have been Orinda residents for over 40 years and have four grandchildren and one great grandchild.



**June and Joe Haughin** with the letter they received from Queen Elizabeth.

SALLY HOGARTY

Orinda Motors Presents 

# The 13th Annual Orinda Classic Car Show Weekend

**Friday Night Pre-Party,**  
**September 8th, 5:30pm**  
**"DANCING WITH THE CARS"**  
Produced by Orinda Rotary/Presented by  **Mechanics Bank**

**Saturday,**  
**September 9th, 10am-3pm**  
**ORINDA CLASSIC CAR SHOW**  **Alliant Insurance** Exhibitors' Sponsor

**Join us as a spectator or to show your car or motorcycle!**  
**Register online today!**

Enjoy vintage and modern exotic cars and motorcycles, food, music, and more! The show will be held in and around Orinda Motors, 63 Orinda Way.

**Cruise in a Classic!**  
Donate \$10 and choose your ride for the Drive.




**Enter Your Car and Buy Party Tickets Today at [www.OrindaCarShow.com](http://www.OrindaCarShow.com)**

These events benefit the Seniors Around Town transportation program, Educational Foundation of Orinda and other local charities. We would like to thank our partners for helping make these events happen: Orinda Association, Rotary Club of Orinda, Orinda Historical Society Museum, Orinda Community Foundation, Orinda Chamber of Commerce, EFO, Orinda Arts Council and Seniors Around Town.



ORINDA ASSOCIATION

A Message From the OA President  
Orinda is a Summertime  
Playground



Cindy Powell

There's lots to do in this wonderful summer playground we call Orinda. Start the month off with a performance of *As You Like It* at Cal Shakes on the 1st. Stay after the show to speak with the players and Director Eric Ting. On June 2, attend *The Unexpected Guest* at Orinda Starlight Village Players' Outdoor Theater in our park.

June 3 is **National Trails Day**. Remember, the City of Orinda won a Trail Town USA designation in 1996. Go to the Orinda Park and Rec Foundation website [www.OPRFoundation.org](http://www.OPRFoundation.org) to see a list of Orinda trails and activities. We are so lucky to have this natural resource in our backyard. Don't forget a Trail Use Pass from EBMUD if you hike on watershed lands.

Then, pick up your reading list to begin the **Build your Brain! Summer Reading** festival at Orinda Library, sponsored by the Friends of the Orinda Library, officially commencing on June 5. This is for ALL ages. The "Connecting People to Nature" theme for **World Environment Day**, also on June 5, invites us to think about how we are part of nature and to appreciate how we depend on it. Orindans are already on to this!! June 6 is **D-Day**. Thank you to our WWII Vets and others for their service. The

OA will be offering **Buddy Poppies** from Memorial Day through July 4th to support our vets.

The **Build your Brain!** theme at Orinda Library includes Dr. Patrick Arbore's June 7th discussion, *The Aging Brain: Myths & Facts*. Also on June 7 is the **WomenSing Water Is Life** concert at Santa Maria Church. Or if you want to enjoy a musical movie, on June 8 the **free movie in Orinda**

[SEE PRESIDENT page 16]



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
The Orinda Association's Marie Waterman, Board Member Carol Zischke and Board President Cindy Powell attended the MOFD's open house at Station 45 in Orinda.

The Orinda Association

The Orinda Association is a not-for-profit 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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**Parade Guy**  
Why a 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade?

Andrew Radlow

Why do parades exist, and when did they begin? Turns out the origin of parades goes back to a time of the earliest civilizations. Rulers used marches to affirm and build power. Later in the Middle Ages, parades became more organized affairs. Monarchs, politicians and religious figures created ever bigger events to connect with larger numbers of constituents to legitimize if not elevate their stations in society.

Some things never change. One can't escape modern day examples, especially now that modern technology magnifies the stakes to ever higher degrees. If we could have a nickel for every claim that someone's rally or parade drew more people or viewership than the others', heck I'd throw myself a parade. Put another way,

it's a good thing the rulers of the Middle Ages didn't have Twitter or we might not be here today.

The word "parade" itself traces back to a Medieval French word meaning "to prepare." The Orinda Association and Orinda Parade Committee are not surprised by this etymological discovery. In English speaking countries the word "parade" took on a different meaning; the "pompous show." This concept was embraced by America's second president John Adams, who concurred when he stated what a proper Independence Day celebration should be:

"It ought to be solemnized with pomp and parade, with shews, games, sports, guns, bells, bonfires, and illuminations

[SEE PARADE page 6]

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[www.orindaparade.com](http://www.orindaparade.com)

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# Letters to the Editor ...

## Housing as the Value Enhancer

The Urban Land Institute (ULI), a development group, website <https://uli.org> and presentation <http://orindaca.iqm2.com/Citizens/Default.aspx>, has put forth their plans for Orinda's downtown. Forget that semi-rural setting of a meandering stream, overlooking the bucolic Orinda hills and open spaces.

Instead, ULI's presented vision, Tues., April 11, 2017, is all about "housing as the value enhancer." Unless you favor "housing as the value enhancer," employed in Walnut Creek's and Lafayette's downtown, this is a disastrous approach for Orinda. It defies the reason why most of us live here.

Despite the enormous work and competence of Orinda's original visionaries, who created our General Plan in the '80s, picture six new buildings, of 40 units each, at five stories, crammed into the Post Office and Rite Aid space. The ULI presentation included many fanciful distractions, but this vision accurately describes what the ULI has in mind. Don't quibble about 100, 150 or 200 new units. This ULI plan is wrong by an order of magnitude.

You might ask, how this massive increase in housing (240 units or thereabouts), at five stories, crammed into a small area, would impact schools, traffic flow and the quality of life. You might ask how a ULI development could be five stories when the General Plan calls for two stories or no more than 35'. Part of the answer would include, ULI's recommendation to redefine how to measure. Put simply, building heights would be measured from the curb. The General Plan would be revised to provide more "flexibility." There are many other recommendations or distractions to support the overall development objective: "housing as the value enhancer." Details can be important, but don't lose perspective and the impact of a massive increase in downtown housing. Is this what you want?

If you favor "organic growth," the two-story Montessori plans proposed for the Phairs' location a few years back, which I strongly supported, along with the current plans for 25 Orinda Way are good examples. The Montessori plans were approved by the Planning Commission, but were killed by the City Council and the Orinda Vision folks. The positives of "organic growth" versus the negatives of "housing as the value enhancer" produce dramatically different outcomes. The ULI proposed massive increases to downtown residential real estate, if approved, would be irreversible.

Ponder the perspective and magnitude of the ULI proposal. Don't get lost in promises and less substantial issues. Get involved and demand a vote. It's your community.

– Chris Kniel

## Page One Dog

Barney is a Glen of Imaal from County Wicklow, Ireland, also known as a Wicklow Terrier. He lives with OA Vice President Joe Garvey and his wife Linda.

## No "McDonalds" of Exercise Centers in Orinda

When I heard that the first tenant for the new development planned for Orinda Way was a fitness center, I was shocked. Orinda already has a full-service fitness center, called In Forma. It has served our community for over 20 years, and it is directly adjacent to the new development.

Who are those other guys, Orange Fitness? They are a country-wide franchise with centers all over the Bay Area, including in Lamorinda. Sort of like McDonalds or Burger King only in the exercise field. Is this what we want for Orinda? The "McDonalds" of exercise centers in our special little downtown? Actually, I don't think that is the slightest bit appropriate.

And then, there is the City of Orinda's own ordinance that limits the concentration and proliferation of similar services in close proximity to each other. The proposed site of the Brand X of fitness centers, Orange Fitness, is literally next door to In Forma. How is that limiting the concentration and proliferation of similar services in close proximity to each other?

How do we preserve our village atmosphere with a national franchise exercise studio plopped down next door to In Forma, our own home-grown fitness center? We should keep and nurture the businesses we already have! Many would like to see some development in Orinda, but this is going about it in the wrong way. I hope the City Council will vote no on this proposed business that is not allowed by our own city ordinance.

– Judy Hammon

## What to Expect from the ULI in Orinda

As reported in the last edition of this newspaper, a Technical Assistance Panel organized by the Urban Land Institute spent two full days in Orinda, April 10 and 11. The panel of experts, intimately familiar with the processes of renewal and revitalization in other Bay Area cities, was invited by the Orinda City Council, as it prepares to focus on downtown planning.

The ULI panel was well prepared thanks to an extensive briefing book prepared by Planning Director Drummond Buckley and his staff. The panel members had ample opportunity to assess Orinda's commercial district real estate and to conduct numerous interviews with the primary downtown



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stakeholders. At the end of their visit, they described what they had heard and offered their initial observations, with the promise of a full report to follow early this summer.

In response to questions posed in advance by the city, they offered some preliminary "Big Ideas" for us to think about. There was no grand scheme to remake downtown but rather a thoughtful approach to build on its existing assets and to consider ways of integrating them better within our commercial districts. Go to [www.cityoforinda.app.box.com/s/xk9gps5hxtizlp7pl8wcp4yy-f2qhnq5](http://www.cityoforinda.app.box.com/s/xk9gps5hxtizlp7pl8wcp4yy-f2qhnq5) to review their public presentation.

In recommending that the city retain the ULI panel, OrindaVision's objective

has been to facilitate the resumption of the downtown conversation on a professional plane, to help us all move beyond the "growth" vs. "no growth" standoff in which the public discussion previously had been framed by some.

I believe the panel has made an excellent beginning in accomplishing a more professional and civil tone to the community conversation. We look forward to the ULI's final analysis and recommendations. We should not expect a grand plan for downtown Orinda from the panel, rather some practical guideposts for us to consider based on the experiences in other Bay Area

[SEE LETTERS page 14]

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For display advertising rates, call Jill Gelster at 925-528-9225 ([jill@aspenconsult.net](mailto:jill@aspenconsult.net)) or Elana O'Loskey at 925-984-1751 ([elanao@mac.com](mailto:elanao@mac.com)). The deadline for the June issue is June 8, 2017.



NEWS

News Briefs

**Miner Road Update**

With excavation work completed on May 7, Bay Cities and its subcontractor Golden State set up forms and poured a slurry layer to support the bottom slab of the box culvert.

Construction crews, however, encountered more ground water than expected during the excavation, resulting in the need to de-water the area and bring in additional materials. The delay has added approximately a week to the time table for opening the busy thoroughfare.

The city now says the road should be open to traffic by early July. "We're also trying to mitigate the impact of the dirt removal to the sports fields off of Camino Pablo," says Mayor Eve Phillips.

**New Director of Curriculum**

The Orinda Union School District appointed David Schrag as its new Director of Curriculum and Instruction. Schrag, who had previously been the principal at Stanley Middle School in Lafayette, begins work on July 1. Sixty-five candidates applied for the position after the current director, Kathy Marshall, announced her retirement. The well-respected Marshall has been with the district for six years. Her last day is June 30.

"Orinda is truly a very special place. I will forever treasure the relationships I have made and the accomplishments of our district these past six years for the students and families of this great community," concludes the outgoing Marshall.

Orinda Safety Video on CCTV Comcast Channel 26 Through June

Following an armed robbery in an Orinda residential driveway last fall, the Orinda Association brought together safety officials to address community concerns, resulting in a November 2016 Orinda Safety Forum.

Open to the public, the forum featured police, fire, and emergency preparedness officials, who shared important information and answered questions on safety. Film producer Susan Garell video-taped the forum and added in-depth interviews to create *Staying Safe in Orinda—Comprehensive Guidance From Orinda's Top Safety Officials*.

"I found the information the safety officials provided so incredibly extensive and useful that I decided the video should be expanded beyond simply documenting the forum to create a comprehensive guide that included further in-depth interviews and helpful visuals," Garell explains.

According to Garell, the detailed interviews plus additional research helped pull the video together resulting in an 18-minute engaging resource that covers prevention, preparedness and response to crime, fire, emergencies and natural disasters particular to the East Bay.



SALLY HOGARTY  
OPD's Chief **Mark Nagel** spoke about emergency preparedness at the Orinda Association's Safety Forum on Nov. 9.

The video is now available in Lamorinda on CCTV Comcast Channel 26 through June 30 as well as countywide on Channel 27. The film plays on Channel 26 each Tuesday and Thursday at 7 p.m.; Sundays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 11 a.m. and Mondays and Saturdays at 3 p.m.

The video is also available on the Orinda Association's website, [www.orindaassociation.org](http://www.orindaassociation.org) and on the Orinda Association's Facebook page.

— Sally Hogarty, Editor

Council in Agreement on Marijuana Regulations

By SALLY HOGARTY  
Editor

The Orinda City Council, at its May 2 meeting, held the first of many discussions about how Proposition 64 will affect the city. Passed in November 2016, the proposition legalizes recreational marijuana for persons 21 years of age and older and allows people to cultivate up to six plants on their property.

Currently, the City of Orinda's zoning code prohibits medical marijuana dispensaries in the downtown area, but it does not address the full range of commercial marijuana activities that could evolve under new state laws. Within certain limitations, cities can add their own restrictions to Prop. 64, which goes into effect in January 2018.

Citing potential burglaries and concerns

from residents about possible strong odors from outdoor growing of marijuana plants, the City Council unanimously agreed to allow only indoor cultivation. Councilmembers also decided that requiring individuals to register or obtain a permit would put an administrative burden on the city. In addition, other cities that have required permits have found that individuals worried about privacy concerns ignore the permitting process, a process that marijuana advocates argue is not a "reasonable regulation" under Prop. 64.

Storefront dispensaries, manufacturing facilities, etc. will not be allowed but deliveries to residents originating from outside the city will be allowed. According to Police Chief Mark Nagel, trying to regulate or identify delivery services would

[SEE MARIJUANA page 6]

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POLICE

◆ **PARADE** from page 3

from one end of this continent to the other from this time forward forever more.”

– John Adams to Abigail Adams, July 3, 1776

The Parade Guy says: Yeah, John, that’s what I’m talking about!

Parades have evolved over the centuries, but many legacy parade innovations exist even today in Orinda’s Best Hometown Parade. Examples include:

1600s – Introduction of musical instruments to “the march;”

1840 – With the invention of traveling circuses, clowns were added to parades;

1868 – First land based floats appear in a Mardi Gras parade in Mobile, Alabama;

1870 – Mardi Gras parade Kings in New

Orleans first began throwing candy treats to the crowd;

1899 – Automobiles join a parade for first time in Newport, Rhode Island;

1921 – Pageant beauty queens first added to a parade in Atlantic City, New Jersey.

While the format, content and even the purpose of parades has changed over the centuries, their popularity hasn’t. The Parade Guy Research Team has found no evidence of any declining popularity of parades. This is surprising given the explosion of entertainment alternatives and how absolutely busy modern life has become. The mysterious attraction of the “pompous show” goes on!

We can ponder what it is that draws the generations to the parade; if you have an insight or suggestion, feel free to write the Parade Guy at oa@orindaassociation.org. In the meantime, let’s simply surrender to temptation and mark our calendars to meet on July 4<sup>th</sup> in Orinda to celebrate our community, international fellowship (20 Year Celebration of our Sister City, Tabor, Czech Republic) and the birth of America!

◆ **MARIJUANA** from page 5

be extremely difficult.

The City Council instructed City Staff to put together an ordinance amending the city’s Municipal Code to address marijuana activities. The ordinance will be voted on at a future City Council meeting. Public meetings will be held prior to the City Council’s vote.

For more information, go to [www.cityof-orinda.org](http://www.cityof-orinda.org).

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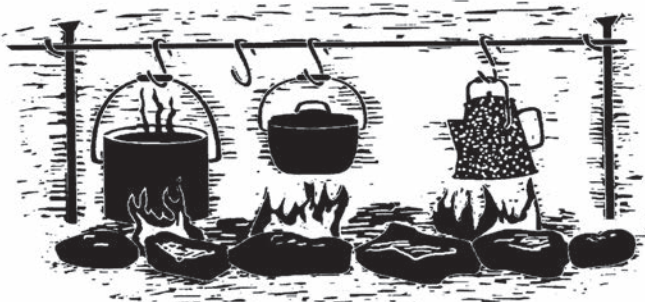
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**POLICE BLOTTER**

April 2 through May 6, 2017

**Calls for Service**

- 911 Hangup: 15 incidents.
- Accident Injury: 2 incidents.
- Accident Property: 11 incidents.
- Alarm, False: 152 incidents.
- Animal Cruelty: 1 incident.
- Barking Dog: 3 incidents.
- Battery: 1 incident.
- Burglary: 2 incidents.
- Burglary, Auto: 4 incidents.
- Burglary, Commercial: incidents.
- Burglary, Residential: 9 incidents.
- Civil Matter: 18 incidents.
- CVC Moving Violation: 168 incidents.
- CVC Non-Moving Violation: 63 incidents.
- Death Non-Criminal: 2 incidents.
- Excessive Speed: 1 incident.
- Fireworks: 1 incident.
- Found Property: 5 incidents.
- Fraud/Credit Card: 1 incident.
- Fraud/False Pretenses: 1 incident.
- Hailed by Citizen: 1 incident.
- Hit & Run Misdemeanor: 5 incidents.
- Identity Theft: 4 incidents.
- Illegal Entry: 1 incident.
- Juvenile Disturbance: 4 incidents.
- Lost Property: 4 incidents.
- Loud Music: 5 incidents.
- Loud Noise: 2 incidents.
- Loud Party: 3 incidents.
- Medical Hospital: 4 incidents.
- Motorist Assist: 2 incidents.
- Occupied Stalled Vehicle: 1 incident.
- Ordinance Violation: 13 incidents.
- Outside Assist: 28 incidents.
- Panhandling: 1 incident.
- Parking Detail: 119 incidents.
- Patrol Request: 76 incidents.
- Petty Theft: 3 incidents.
- Petty Theft from Building: 2 incidents.
- Phone Harass: 1 incident.
- Prowler: 1 incident.
- Public Assembly Check: 5 incidents.
- Public Nuisance: 3 incidents.

- Reckless Driving: 18 incidents.
- Runaway Juvenile: 1 incident.
- School Check: 21 incidents.
- Security Check: 116 incidents.
- Service to Citizen: 169 incidents.
- Shoplift: 2 incidents.
- Suspicious Circumstances: 34 incidents.
- Suspicious Person Stop: 11 incidents.
- Suspicious Subject: 14 incidents.
- Suspicious Vehicle: 26 incidents.
- Suspicious Vehicle Stop: 29 incidents.
- Tow: 8 incidents.
- Traffic Collision/Property Damage: 2 incidents.
- Traffic Control: 2 incidents.
- Traffic Hazard: 18 incidents.
- Trespass: 9 incidents.
- Trespass w/Vehicle: 1 incident.
- Uncontrollable Juvenile: 1 incident.
- Unwanted Guest: 1 incident.
- Vacation House Check: 74 incidents.
- Vandalism: 3 incidents.
- Vehicle Blocking Driveway: 1 incident.
- Verbal Dispute: 5 incidents.
- Warrant Service: 1 incident.
- Welfare Check: 12 incidents.

**Arrests**

- DUI Misdemeanor: 1 arrest.
- Embezzlement: 1 arrest.
- Other Misdemeanor: 1 arrest.
- Possession of Dangerous Drugs: arrest.
- Possession of Firearm: 1 arrest.
- Revocation of Probation: 1 arrest.
- Unauthorized Possession: 1 arrest.
- Warrant Arrest: 3 arrests.

**BART Statistics**

- Grand Theft - Catalytic Converter: 1 incident.

– Compiled by David Dierks  
Assistant Editor

For more incidents details, visit [www.crimereports.com](http://www.crimereports.com)

◆ **LUNCHEON** from page 1

Very familiar with that era, Erokan started the publication of BAM magazine which brought attention to the music of the Bay Area. He also founded the Bammie awards and produced that internationally recognized awards program for 27 years, which attracted over 6,000 music industry leaders annually. He also has stories to tell.

“Of course, we will have the competition for the Royal Court, choosing the oldest

man and woman, and longest married couple,” Fazel reminds. “If you are an Orinda resident, 75 years or older, and have not attended previously, please contact me, preferably my email, [runmnts@progidy.net](mailto:runmnts@progidy.net), or phone, 925-324-2017 to receive an invitation. Those who have attended, are on our list and will receive one in the mail. We expect good food, good fun, and good friends to make it a very special afternoon.”



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## SEASONED SHOPPER / FIRST FRIDAY FORUM



## Seasoned Shopper

### Stone Fruit Bonanza

BARBARA KOBSAR



As we swing into summer, the Orinda Farmers' Market welcomes more delicious, fresh produce each week. For June, stone fruits predominate the scene with piles of beautiful cherries and boxes of luscious apricots, nectarines and peaches.

With many things to celebrate in June – Father's Day, graduations and the beginning of barbecue season – it's also National Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Month to remind us to shop and serve up more in-season produce from the market.

Besides the aforementioned stone fruit, other fresh produce is highlighted during the month. Summer squash are harvested before reaching full maturity giving them their characteristic thin edible skin, soft seeds and high water content. Look for golden zucchini, patty pan or scallop, sunburst and yellow crookneck squash to



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
Peaches are plentiful at the market and make delicious peach pies.

cube and sauté in combination with onion, garlic, herbs and tomatoes.

Striking colors and intriguing shapes are an eggplant's most appealing virtue. The large, pear shaped purple eggplant is most prevalent, but the smaller versions offer a milder, less bitter taste and a tender skin.

## Judge Speaks About Crime at First Friday Forum

By BOBBIE DODSON  
Staff Writer

“Tough on Crime is not Smart on Crime” is the topic Judge Peggy Hora will present at First Friday Forum (FFF), June 2, 1:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary of Lafayette Orinda Presbyterian Church. Judge Hora retired from the California Superior Court after serving 21 years and is now President of the Justice Speakers Institute.

Judge Hora says, “It is clear that the ‘War on Drugs’ and ‘Tough on Crime’ initiatives succeeded only in increasing the number of people in prison in the United States. In the 40 years from 1970 to 2010,



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
Judge Peggy Hora will speak at June's First Friday Forum.

incarceration rates increased 700 percent. Alcohol and other drugs are the drivers for the vast majority of crimes. Drug treatment courts have a quarter century of research and experience to show that they are the best solution to the high risk/high need offender. These ‘problem-solving courts’ reduce recidivism and cost less to operate than business as usual.”

A global leader in the solution-focused court movement, Judge Hora has written comprehensively on justice issues. She explains, “Drug courts that focus on solutions rather than punishment became my passion. I've done trainings all over the United States and I've taught all over the world. Throughout the 21 years I spent on the bench, the best part of my job was presiding over the drug court.”

Raised in Oakland and Castro Valley, Hora began her education at Chabot Community College in Hayward after her youngest son started kindergarten. She then graduated magna cum laude, with a B.A. in political science from Cal State, Hayward. She obtained her law degree from the University of San Francisco.

Hora is the former dean of the B.E. Witkin Judicial College of California and has been on the faculty of the National Judicial College for over 20 years. She was a Senior Judicial Fellow for the National Drug Court Institute and the Global Centre for Drug Treatment Courts. Her international work includes speaking at conferences worldwide and hands on training on drug courts in 12 countries including Japan, Russia and South Africa.

### When ripe peaches are in season it's time to make peach pie!

Pastry for a two crust 9" pie (homemade or readymade)  
4 pounds ripe peaches, peeled, pitted and cut into one half inch slices  
1 tablespoon fresh lemon juice  
One half cup cane sugar  
One quarter cup quick cooking tapioca  
One half teaspoon ground nutmeg  
One egg, beaten (optional)

Line a 9" pie plate with pastry. Combine peaches with remaining ingredients and spoon into prepared pastry crust. Place top pastry over peaches. Trim excess dough to within one half inch from edge of pan. Seal the crusts together by pinching or fluting. Cut a few slits in the top crust. Brush with a mixture of beaten egg if desired and sprinkle with a little sugar.

Place in a 425 degree oven for 10 minutes. Lower the heat to 350 and continue cooking for about 40 minutes or until the crust is brown and the juices are bubbling.

Japanese eggplant is a favorite, and the Rosa Bianca is prized for its particularly mild, tender flesh and tear-drop shape while ranging from a pinky-lavender to soft white color.

Sweet onions are at the top of the list for summer picnics. A little more sugar, higher water content and fewer sulfur compounds make sweet onions the perfect partner when making salads, sandwiches and burgers.

Summer squash, eggplant and sweet

onions all take well to the grill. Cut each vegetable in half, brush with olive oil, sprinkle with salt and pepper and place on a medium hot grill. Each side takes 3 to 4 minutes to cook.

The Orinda market is open every Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Orinda Way in front of the Community Park and Rite Aid. For more information, visit the website at [www.cccfm.org](http://www.cccfm.org) or the call the market hotline 925-431-8361.

### Paws to Read

The Orinda Library's fun way for children to improve their reading skills -- read to a furry friend! Gentle, therapy dogs listen attentively as youngsters read to them from books about animals. A great time for both readers and listeners!

June 5 - 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.  
June 12, 19, 26 - 2:30 - 3:30 p.m.

Orinda Library  
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## Orinda Starlight Village Players

Present



by Agatha Christie

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Fridays and Saturdays, at 8:30 p.m. June 2 through July 1  
Sunday, June 25, 4:00 p.m., Thursday, June 29, 8:00 p.m.

At the Outdoor Theater, Orinda Community Center Park  
26 Orinda Way (Across from Rite Aid), Two blocks from BART.

Regular admission \$20, Discount admission \$10

Season Tickets: \$48 regular, \$21 senior tickets  
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*L. Frank Baum's Wizard of Oz* adapted by Malcolm Cowler  
*Five Door Farce* by Robert Merrill)

Mailing Address: Orinda Starlight Village Players,  
4946 Santa Rita Rd., Richmond, CA 94803

[www.orsvp.org](http://www.orsvp.org)

Tickets at Box Office or call 925-528-9225 or email [info@orsvp.org](mailto:info@orsvp.org)

### Starlight Dinner Theater Offer

Bring a receipt from an Orinda restaurant to the theater and get two regular theater tickets for the price of one. (Restaurant receipt must be from the same night as the performance. One discount per party.)

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
Artist **John Toki** supervises Del Rey students as they help install the sculpture they made at Del Rey's Maker's Day Fair event held June 2, 2016.

## Del Rey Students Weld a *Wild Thing*

By ELANA O'LOSKEY  
Staff Writer

In the spring of 2016, Del Rey Principal Kirsten Theurer and staff were gearing up for their first Maker's Day Fair event. Theurer knew that instructional support provider Pam Stefl Toki's husband John is a well-known studio artist and retired professor from the California College of the Arts. With minimal arm twisting, he agreed to create a Maker's Day project-based learning experience involving art. It had to be interesting to fifth graders, pass muster by teachers and parents, be safe, and use all aspects of STEAM – science, technology, engineering, art and mathematics.

Toki, who often works with ceramics, realized that would take too much time and decided welding, which can be done in one day, was a better fit. As an educator, he wanted to do more than just give the kids an exercise and go home. He decided on a 9.5' steel sculpture created in a safe, multi-collaborative way from inception to installation. To that end, he enlisted the help of certified welder Amanda Larson, who brought youthful energy and technical safety expertise to the project. Collaboration and interaction among everyone involved guided the way forward.

While welding may not seem a safe activity for 3rd to 5th graders, Toki and crew made sure it was done to everyone's satisfaction. Toki invited local sculptor

Gale Wagner and Ted Urban of the Art in Public Places Committee (APPC) in Orinda to join the crew. Among Toki, Larson and Wagner, there was a total of 100 years of welding experience available to the children involved. Wagner and Toki provided the scrap steel the kids worked with to create their sculpture. Larson designed a protocol for the kids to handle the project safely, including protective coverage for their whole body and helmets designed specifically for welding.

On June 2, 2016, in a rather unique experience, over 20 elementary school girls and boys were given artistic freedom and enough safe guidance to create *Wild Thing*. All decisions about the piece including the color, the name and where the welds were made, were done in collaboration. The piece was submitted to the APPC for review and was accepted to be on display for a year in the Orinda Library Plaza. At some point, it will return to the Orinda Union School District office.

Because Réka Pigniczky's son was involved, Toki got to know her and found out she is a documentary filmmaker. When asked to create a documentary about the project, she said yes. Go to [www.youtube.com/watch?v=go5Da8mgGJ4](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=go5Da8mgGJ4) to view her four-plus-minute film where you will see how the project was accomplished. To learn more about Réka Pigniczky, documentary filmmaker and visual journalist, visit [www.rekapigniczky.com](http://www.rekapigniczky.com). For more about John Toki's work, visit [www.johntoki.com](http://www.johntoki.com).

## Fitness Tip of the Month

*Our fitness and, therefore, our health is one of the few things we can control... enabling us to improve the quality of our lives. The earlier we start the more quality years we experience.*

*The level of quality is proportional to the degree of fitness attained for one's capabilities.*



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## Ace It! Tournament Benefits Breast Health

By BOBBIE DODSON  
Staff Writer

It's a Win-Win Day, June 24, when Orindawoods (OW) hosts Ace It!, the 15th annual benefit for breast cancer awareness. Not only will participants have a great day of tennis, but all the funds raised will go to Better Health East Bay; Carol Ann Read Breast Health Center in Oakland.

The day begins at 8:30 a.m. when seven local pros will provide tennis tips as players practice their strokes and strategy. Noon brings the luscious lunch, all the food provided by Ace It! committee members, and Ace It! Ale brewed by member, Mel Siegel. "All participants and lunch guests [SEE TENNIS page 14]



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
**Keith Wheeler**, executive tennis director and **Tesie Siegel**, both Ace It! committee members welcome participants in the 2017 tennis tournament.

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– Anna Alvarado



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STUDENTS

# High School Seniors Look Back and Forward as School Year Nears End

By SALLY HOGARTY, KATHRYN G. MCCARTY, CHELSEA PAL

*The Orinda News* posed three questions to graduating seniors at Miramonte High School, Orinda Academy and Holden High School. Here are their insightful answers.



LAURA COTRILL

Julia Pankonin Dahl from Orinda Academy.

**What will you remember most about your high school experience?**

**Sebastian Huang – Miramonte:** The thing I will remember most is definitely the friends I've made and the relationships I've formed with teachers and colleagues over the years. It's comforting to know that there will always be someone I can trust when I go off into the real world.

**Tony Schliesser – Holden:** I'm constantly reminded how much I've grown throughout my four years. I started high school pretty thick-headed and rebellious. When it didn't get me where I wanted to go, I decided to change. After a lot of hard work, I came out on the other side.

**Iris Chow – Miramonte:** The thing I'll



CHELSEA PAL

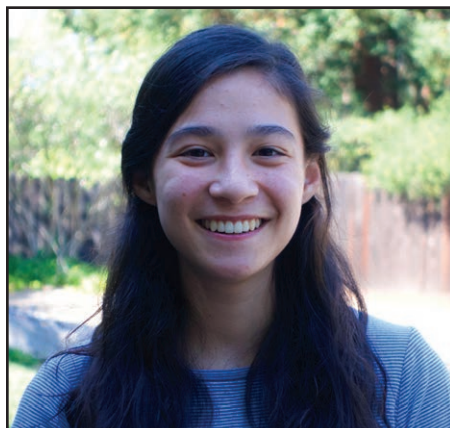
Sebastian Huang from Miramonte High School.

remember the most about high school is the people. I've made so many incredible friends and met inspiring teachers that have made such a huge impact on my life. Even though I've learned so many powerful and useful things in school, my classmates and teachers have made by far the largest impact on my life.

**Jamari Mitchell – Holden:** I'll remember most the community at Holden -- staff, students, faculty -- as well as the classroom dynamics. And, of course, just hanging out with friends.

**Jonathan DeWitt – Orinda Academy:** Probably the most memorable time of my high school experience was playing basketball and all the other people I got to know and talk to because of it.

**Cameron Kvech – Holden:** The people are what I'll remember the most. This is such an interesting group, and I love how we've all come together. They are such genuine, fun people to be around, and we have many interesting classes at this school as well.



CHELSEA PAL

Iris Chow from Miramonte High School.

**Julia Pankonin Dahl – Orinda Academy:** I will remember just how hard it was to grow up and how amazing it was to become more mature and more aware of everything.

**What did you find the most challenging?**

**Jonathan DeWitt – Orinda Academy:** The most challenging thing about high school was developing tolerance for my fellow humans, despite their radical views and assertions, and homework.

**Jamari Mitchell – Holden:** Juggling different things in life has been my biggest challenge. Trying to figure out how to do other things besides school. Holden really allowed me to branch out. When I first started high school, I was at a different school. My dad had just died, and they were



SALLY HOGARTY

Tony Schliesser, Cameron Kvech and Jamira Mitchell from Holden High.

not very supportive. They gave me extra homework because they thought that would help whip me into shape. I didn't need that. I soldiered on for a year and half but knew I had to move on. I walked by Holden and heard a student – Magnus who graduated last year – just shredding on the guitar and I was so excited that you could do that during school hours. I continued exploring the school and I ran into a friend who went here and then another old childhood friend who was visiting that day as well. Just so many things that pointed me to this school. It felt like home already.

**Iris Chow – Miramonte:** For me, the most challenging part of high school was learning how to achieve balance. I'm so lucky to have grown up in a community with so many opportunities available to me, but with that, comes the tricky part of having to balance all of these things and sometimes making hard choices about what I can and can't handle.

**Julia Pankonin Dahl – Orinda Academy:** All of school was challenging at first, but then I figured out that it was okay to ask for help, and it was okay not to be right all the time.

**Cameron Kvech – Holden:** Besides math, the most challenging thing was definitely finding the right school for me.

I didn't start out at Holden. The size of the school is also a bit of a challenge because it is so small. Everyone knows everything. You can't get away with anything.

**Sebastian Huang – Miramonte:** The most challenging aspect of high school wasn't necessarily the work but the stress and expectations that came with it. At a school like Miramonte, where almost everybody embodies the perfect, well-rounded student, one often feels like a small fish in a huge ocean. The most important thing that I learned was to just set my own

[SEE STUDENTS page 11]



LAURA COTRILL

Jonathan DeWitt from Orinda Academy.

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# Orinda Academy Teacher Selected as "Jeopardy" Alternate

By KATHRYN G. MCCARTY  
Staff Writer

Katherine Saxby loves the game show "Jeopardy!" She has always watched "faithfully" and has been taking the online quiz to be a contestant "for years." Her dedication paid off when she was chosen as an alternate player for the "Jeopardy! Teacher Tournament" last March.

"I loved to yell answers at the television," Saxby enthuses. "I shrugged off my wrong answers, and I felt very smart when I knew something the TV contestants didn't." Saxby played "hooky" from her teaching job at Orinda Academy, where she's taught since 2000, to travel to L.A. for the show's filming.

Contestants in the tournament were full-time teachers of students in grades K-12. A total of 15 players competed, plus one alternate invited as a standby, for a \$100,000

grand prize in the two-week tournament, which aired in May.

"We felt that teachers were not fully recognized as important members of our society and 'Jeopardy!' provides an opportunity for us to rectify that problem," said the show's iconic host, Alex Trebek.

After being invited to tryouts for the show, Saxby says she spent two months "brushing up on State and World Capitals and U.S. presidents—the map has changed quite a bit since I was in high school!" She continues about her incredible experience: "The audition was super fun because of all the other interesting and accomplished would-be contestants. I was impressed and delighted by the graphic artist, who played guitar in a Klingon Death-Metal band, and by the woman who judged Equestrian events in the Olympic Games."

According to Saxby, the tournament didn't feel like a competition because the teachers supported and cheered one another: "The teachers are smart, funny, inspiring people who love their jobs. I guarantee that anybody who makes it onto the show is very smart, even if they don't get a single right answer." While she just missed making it on air as a finalist this time, Saxby will test again for a position to play in next year's Teacher's Tournament when she hopes to be all caught up on Geography.



Orinda Academy teacher **Katherine Saxby** with "Jeopardy!" host **Alex Trebek**.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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## SCHOOL CALENDAR

Note that Orinda schools will be closed May 29 for Memorial Day.

**June**

- 2 **Holden High School** Graduation. 3 p.m.
- 5 **Board Meeting**, Orinda Union School District, 8 Altarinda Road, 6 p.m. Visit [www.orindaschools.org](http://www.orindaschools.org). Also June 19.
- 8 **Orinda Intermediate School** Promotion Ceremony (Minimum Day)
- 9 **Del Rey School** Last Day of School  
**Glorietta Elementary School**, 15 Martha Road, Farewell Celebration (for Student Body) and Last Day of School-Minimum Day  
**Orinda Academy** Senior Graduation 3 p.m., Orinda Masonic Hall  
**Orinda Intermediate School** Last Day of School-Minimum Day  
**Miramonte High School** Graduation. 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.  
**Sleepy Hollow Elementary School** Last Day of School  
**Wagner Ranch Elementary School** Last Day of School

Send calendar items to **Jill Gelster** at [calendar@aspenconsult.net](mailto:calendar@aspenconsult.net)

## Orinda School District Awards



**Sue Boudreau** (L) from Orinda Intermediate School received the Orinda Union School District Teacher of the Year Award and **Shirley Glotch**, a clerk at Sleepy Hollow Elementary School received the Classified Employee of the Year at the district's May meeting.

SALLY HOGARTY

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STUDENTS

◆ STUDENTS from page 9

standards and do my best.

**Tony Schliesser – Holden:** For me, finding the best fit in terms of schools was very challenging. Holden is my fourth high school. I came here at the beginning of my junior year. Before Holden, I was struggling, and it was really frustrating for both me and my parents.

**What are you looking forward to in college?**

**Iris Chow – Miramonte:** At UC Berkeley next year, I'm really excited to focus in more on my interests academically. Right now, although I have a general idea of what I want to do, it's still very unclear where I'll end up. But in college, I'll be able to take more specific courses and really figure out what kinds of careers I'm passionate about.

**Tony Schliesser – Holden:** I'm attending the University of San Francisco in the fall as a business major. I plan on exploring the business world. After two years working at my dad's financial planning office, I've developed actual work experience and know this is the direction I want to go. I'm also really interested in cyber security -- maybe as a minor. We had a cyber security audit done at my dad's office and realized he wasn't very secure. It really opened my eyes. Now, I'm looking forward to exploring what USF and the world can offer.

**Julia Pankonin Dahl – Orinda Acad-**

**emy:** I look forward to using the skills I learned at OA in college, life skills that help me to be able to self-advocate, to be on my own and know I'll be fine if I mess up.

**Sebastian Huang – Miramonte:** I am extremely excited to be studying business at the University of Southern California. I'm thrilled to be part of such a spirited student community and to utilize the resources and connections in the city of Los Angeles.

**Jamari Mitchell – Holden:** I love music and film and am working on a music video right now. I hope to pursue more film. I'm looking for internships with the goal of making films for YouTube and, eventually, do features. One of my uncles is in film in LA so I have a few connections.

**Cameron Kvech – Holden:** I'll be attending Xavier University in Ohio for nursing. I'm definitely going to miss Holden, but I'm also ready and very excited to move on. I think the fact that Jamari, Tony and I are doing such different things attests to what Holden is like – diverse interests coming together.

**Jonathan DeWitt – Orinda Academy:** I am looking forward to a more sophisticated and passionate group of people in the college I am going to, Naropa [In Boulder, Colorado, the school was founded in 1974 by a Tibetan Buddhist], and I am looking forward to getting to spend a lot of time with these people while we all search for ourselves and for what it means to be a "man" or a "woman."

**OIS Debate Team Clinches First Place Overall**



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO


The Orinda Intermediate School debate team took first place at the Northwest Regional Debate Championships held in Yuba City on April 22. This championship tournament was attended by middle schools from California, Colorado, Washington and other NW states. Shown above are coach **Terry Eubanks** and students **Grace Barmmer**, **Joshua Morganstein** and **Kiara Kofeod**. They debated the topic "A Constitutional Convention will do more good than harm."

Wagner Ranch Presents *Alice in Wonderland Jr.* June 2-3



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Wagner Ranch's 4th and 5th grade actors have been rehearsing for months to bring Lewis Carroll's *Alice in Wonderland* to life. Shown above are crew members: (L-R) back row: **Alison Rhee**, **Elsa Cooke**, **Josephine Ginsburg**, **Vivian Carter**; front row: **Hadley Orr**, **Makena Gong**, **Nicole Hui** and **Brandon Tse**. The show is double cast with the Carroll and Lewis casts alternating performances. Show times are Friday, June 2, 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. and Saturday, June 3, 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. Tickets, priced \$10-\$12, may be purchased at the door or online at [www.showtix4u.com](http://www.showtix4u.com).



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# Gallery: Botanical Art from Alcatraz; Photographs and Glass Art

By ELANA O'LOSKEY  
Staff Writer

The Lamorinda Arts Council will present drawings and paintings done by members of the Northern California Society of Botanical Artists (NCALSBA), Lucy Beck's photographs and Cindy Whitchurch's glass art through June 30 at the Orinda Library Art Gallery.

Catherine Watters is showing a special PowerPoint presentation about botanical art created from flora on Alcatraz on June 3 at 3 p.m. in the Orinda Library Auditorium. You can meet all the artists at their reception immediately following Watters' presentation from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. where light refreshments will be served.

The *Alcatraz Florilegium* project has a fascinating history dating back to the beginnings of the *Isla de los Alcatrazes* (Island of the Pelicans) in the 1840s. When the government realized it was a great location for a secure military prison, soil and plants were imported to create a Victorian-era garden for the families stationed there. Development and expansion of the gardens continued until conversion of the facility to a maximum security prison in the 1930s.

In 2003, with the 40-year prison era ended, the Garden Conservancy and the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy formed a partnership with the National Park Service and set to work restoring the gardens. Vol-

unteer gardeners removed the overgrowth, recovered "survivor plants" hidden beneath the tangled mess and worked to restore and enhance what remained of the historic gardens. As a result of their 10-year restoration project, people can now enjoy the fragrant old roses, fig trees, bulbs and huge succulents on "The Rock."

The NCALSBA's Lyn Dahl visited Alcatraz on a tour in 2012 and was captivated by the gardens. Dahl shared her photos with Catherine Watters, her botanical art instructor, who immediately responded, "We should do a florilegium!" Watters explains that, "A florilegium is a collection of drawings of plants that exist in a particular geographic location – be it a continent, a state or a city."

Dahl and Watters contacted Shelagh Fritz, who was responsible for the restoration of the gardens under the Garden Conservancy. Fritz led the way for the botanical artists of NCALSBA to visit the island to obtain plant samples to create the watercolors that comprise the florilegium. NCALSBA members Catherine Watters, Lyn Dahl and Sally Petru managed the project. The resulting *Alcatraz Florilegium* catalogue (2016) contains 127 plates of flora. Of the 127 in the catalogue, 77 are on display in the exhibit. Catalogues will be available for purchase at the artist reception for \$30 each, plus tax.

Botanical artists from Orinda who



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Lucy Beck's striking photograph printed on metal and entitled *Chrysanthemum* will be featured at the June gallery exhibit.

contributed to the *Alcatraz Florilegium* include Betsy Chovanes, Helen Hasselman, Linda Kam, Tina Locke, Lee McCaffree, Joyce Nelson, Lynn Randelman, Katherine Rudebusch, Laura Sawczuk, Diana Treter, Barb Ward, and Catherine Watters. For more about the NCALSBA, see [www.ncalsba.org/wordpress/alcatraz](http://www.ncalsba.org/wordpress/alcatraz). For more about Catherine Watters' work, see [www.catherinewatters.com](http://www.catherinewatters.com).

Lucy Beck of Lafayette, a member of the Contra Costa Camera Club, uses a variety of lenses depending on what she is photographing. For botanical photos, a subject which enralls her, she uses 105mm and 60mm macro lenses. Looking at flowers close up with her camera, she makes the small world of a flower appear large. She does just that with her 28" x 20" photograph printed on metal, *Chrysanthemum*. Her 36" x 31" photograph, *Lisianthus*, won second prize in a state-wide competition with 1500 entries at the Triton Museum of Art in Santa Clara.

In Orinda, Beck is showing about 20 works, most botanicals, but some large landscapes and iconic bridges in the Bay Area. Much of her work has a painterly quality because she often prints her photographs on Japanese Washi paper from the Moab Company, which has been in operation since the 1700s. For more about Beck's work, see [www.lucybeckphotography.com](http://www.lucybeckphotography.com).

Cindy Whitchurch of Lafayette is an ex-Fortune 500 executive living her dream as an artist and entrepreneur. To fill a void after leaving her job, she became an intern for a renowned glass artist. The late Dan

Fenton, who received a national glass achievement award and was recognized at Oakland's prestigious industrial arts school, The Crucible, was one of her teachers. She has been making fused glass pieces for more than 10 years.

Whitchurch is exhibiting 35 pieces which display her technique of giving fused glass the look of blown glass. She layers the glass and fires it multiple times. This allows the glass to flow and stretch and gives the colors she uses a luminous depth. *Fire in the Sky*, a 15.5" x 11.5" fused glass charcuterie plate is about half an inch thick, which makes it not only sturdy but dishwasher safe and attractive on any table.

Whitchurch agrees with renowned glass artist Dale Chihuly who says, "Glass is the most magical of all materials. It transmits light in a special way." She hopes that viewers enjoy the color, texture and shine of glass as much as she does. For more about her work, see [www.whitchurchglass-designs.com](http://www.whitchurchglass-designs.com).

Watters says that, "Art enriches our lives and offers a new way of seeing." Beck says, "Art is the heart and soul of the community because it has the capacity to bring out our better selves so we can travel to a better place." Whitchurch believes the community-based art shown in the gallery inspires people to try something new.

Visit the gallery at 26 Orinda Way during normal library hours – Monday through 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. Call 925-254-2184 for more information or visit <http://ccclib.org>.

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PERFORMING ARTS

# Expect the Unexpected from the Orinda Starlight Village Players

By DAVID DIERKS  
Assistant Editor

The Orinda Starlight Village Players (OrSVP) start their 34th season producing plays in the Orinda Community Center park with Agatha Christie's *The*

*Unexpected Guest* on June 2. Directed by longtime OrSVP member Suzan Lorraine, the show starts on a foggy estate in Wales when a stranger walks into a house to find a murdered man, his dazed wife standing over him holding a gun.

The woman's confession is unconvinc-

ing, so the unexpected guest decides to help her and blame the murder on an intruder. Once the police arrive, they discover clues that point to the man being dead for over two years, resulting in the forcing open of a Pandora's box of love, hate, suspicion and intrigue. "This is classic Christie with the familiar character types that she has in every story – but this one has a twist that is a bit different from the others," notes Lorraine.

Like all great mysteries, *The Unexpected Guest* keeps audiences guessing until the very end. "Everybody loves a mystery and Agatha wrote the best – consistently," enthuses Lorraine. "I love to hear the audience gasping during a particularly suspenseful scene and discussing 'who done it' during intermission."

Unlike some of Christie's plays, which started as books and were converted to the stage, this story was written for the stage in 1958 and novelized after her death. "I have to admit," Lorraine avers, "that I'm not fond of most of the plays that have been adapted from Christie books by other people. I much prefer the ones that she actually wrote." She adds, "Yes, they are somewhat dated now and appear to be simplistic, until you find yourself thinking,



CHARLIE JARRETT  
George Doer (L) and Ken Sollazzo in last year's production of *Murder on the Nile*.

'Oh! It was her . . . no, wait, it was him . . . no, wait!'"

Performances of *The Unexpected Guest* run from June 2 through July 1, Friday and Saturday nights at 8:30 pm, with one Sunday performance on June 25 at 4 pm and one Thursday performance on June 29 at 8 pm.

OrSVP is completely volunteer run and no one at the theatre is paid. Anyone who is interested in any aspect of theatre and would like to help is encouraged to contact the group at [www.orsvp.org](http://www.orsvp.org) or 925-528-9225. "This is a great place to get your feet wet in community theatre," Lorraine encourages before concluding, "So, do come play with us."

## The Glass Menagerie Comes to the Bruns Amphitheater

By KATHRYN G. MCCARTY  
Staff Writer

Lisa Portes makes her directorial debut at California Shakespeare Theater's second show of the season *The Glass Menagerie* by Tennessee Williams, running July 5-30 at the Bruns Amphitheater. This is the first of Williams' plays to be staged at Cal Shakes.

With a main character based on the playwright himself, *The Glass Menagerie* is a memory play narrated by Tom Wingfield (Sean San Jose), an aspiring poet forced to work at a St. Louis shoe warehouse to support his overbearing eccentric mother, Amanda (Karen Aldrige), and painfully shy sister Laura.

Portes says she has "long admired" Cal Shakes for its "progressive, adventurous approach to the classics. I think at this moment in time, when our ideas about our country are so varied and conflicted, pro-

ducing one of the seminal classic American texts provides a terrific opportunity both to return to and re-investigate our roots." She adds, "Williams was focused on outsiders, and I think the question of who might be considered an outsider is particularly resonant and has frightening consequences in the U.S. in 2017."

In casting *The Glass Menagerie's* Wingfield family as Afro-Latino, Portes said she asks us to imagine the classic American landscape "as something other than white while at the same time amplifying the displacement of the central characters of this story." She opines, "As we see nearly every day on the news, the space for dreams of black and brown people is increasingly small."

The company's Managing Director Susie Falk announced several audience enrichment events for this play which "strive to create as many avenues for access to our work as possible." These events include: First Look (July 1, 7 p.m.); Open-captioned Performance (7:30 p.m., July 12); Meet the Artists Matinee (4 p.m., July 9 and 23); In-Sight Matinee (4 p.m., July 16); Post-Show Talkbacks (July 11, 13 and 19); and Grove Talks (held 45 minutes prior to curtain).

*The Glass Menagerie* runs July 5-30 at the Bruns Memorial Amphitheatre, at 100 California Shakespeare Theater Way, Orinda – Tuesdays through Thursdays at 7:30 p.m.; Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m.; Sundays at 4 p.m. The grounds open two hours before curtain and there's a free shuttle service from the Orinda BART station (beginning 90 minutes prior to curtain) as well as free on site parking. For more information or to charge tickets (\$31 to \$89) by phone, call the Cal Shakes Box Office at 510-548-9666. Additional information and online ticketing are available at [www.calshakes.org](http://www.calshakes.org)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Lisa Portes directs Cal Shakes production of *The Glass Menagerie*, the first Tennessee Williams play produced at the Bruns Amphitheater.

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FILM

◆ LETTERS from page 4

cities that have already been down the path toward renewal and revitalization.

The challenging work of addressing our General Plan update and the details of a specific plan for Orinda's downtown remains ahead of us. Success or failure in these endeavors will be up to the Orinda community, not to outside experts. There is, however, no lack of talent in the Bay Area to help us along the way. The ULI TAP process should bring into focus some concepts and best practices from the experience of other cities that could be invaluable to Orinda.

– Tom Trowbridge

Advocate for Good Ideas

The City of Orinda will not be spared the passage of time. And with time, comes change. Would you not want to have some influence on those changes? Well, there are a lot of people who do want to be involved. At the Orinda City Council meeting on April 11, I was one of several people who came too late to find a seat. The Urban Land Institute presented their report addressing many details important to City Planning with recommendations and supporting rationale. We are all free to agree or disagree with the recommendations; the important thing is that the report provides a basis for discussion.

Numerous people provided verbal input during the public comment part of the meeting. Some evidently had a good understanding of the planning process and had listened carefully to the ULI presentation. Others made comments maybe just based on simple observation. Any member of the community can participate and make a difference in this way. I learned much by listening to them, and I intend to advocate for some good ideas I heard. Early in this

process is the time to bring in ideas. From what I see there are suggestions being taken seriously that would not have been taken seriously just a few years ago, for example incorporating the creek into accessible space, and traffic flow and construction concessions to the pedestrian experience.

The National Main Street Center is expected to present its final report to City Council in June. I want to be at that meeting. The support and involvement of our community will make this effort come out optimally. If you want to have your say, these meetings are the time to speak up.

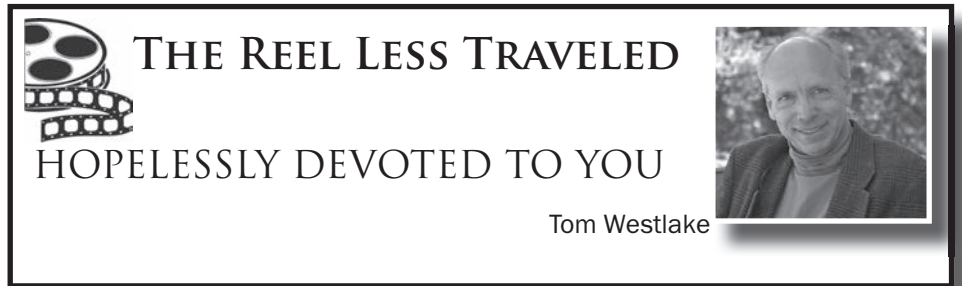
– Jeff Violet

◆ TENNIS from page 8

receive a free raffle ticket and we have loads of prizes," says Lysbeth McNeill. "Also, there will be a Silent Auction with items ranging from a condo in Hawaii and Giants and Warrior tickets to a dinner prepared by the committee," McNeill notes before adding, "To pare away those calories added at lunch, there is round robin tennis – mixed, men or women's doubles – in the afternoon. The day ends with awards to the winners plus wine, a signature cocktail and more food for everyone."

Ace It! began when a number of members of the local tennis community were diagnosed with breast cancer. Looking for a way to support their friends, a group at OW came up with the idea of a "Play for the Cure" day and Ace It! began. In the fifteen years since, over \$120,000 has been raised. "Our focus is to expand and enhance services for breast cancer patients and their families receiving services at the Carol Ann Read Breast Health Center," McNeill explains.

Application forms for Ace It! are available online at orindawoodstennis.com.



This month's cinematic offerings will highlight the transformative power of women, which sociologically speaking, could not be more timely. By transformative, I'm not simply speaking of the effect that women have on those around them, but also the change that happens from within.

The first on the list is also the lightest. *Grease* dominated Broadway and nearly every other stage it was presented on for years before becoming a movie. This popular throwback to the '50s not only dominated the arts but revived nearly every other aspect of life "back in the day." It's probably the sole reason poodle skirts

are still seen occasionally here and there. With its catchy musical numbers and paper thin plot, it duplicated its initial success and introduced itself to a far wider audience. It was also buoyed by its two leads (John Travolta and Olivia Newton John) who were, themselves, riding high at the peak of their fame. Since it's part of the Classic Film Showcase, admission will cost you nothing, but it wouldn't hurt to keep with the theme of the evening, though I have it on good authority that riding your motorcycle into the theatre will probably be frowned upon. It will screen at the Orinda on June 8 at 7 p.m.

[SEE FILM page 16]

## Yertle Becomes Second Turtle in Nature Area Pond

By KATHARINE BARRETT  
Contributing Writer

### Western Pond Turtle's Return to Orinda Habitat

This past year, a Boy Scout, who loves turtles, decided to do his Eagle Scout Project at the Wagner Ranch Nature Area in Orinda. He was familiar with the pond in the Nature Area and wanted to introduce a native Western Pond Turtle, which is a species of special concern in our area because of its dwindling numbers.

Arman Marchiel contacted the Friends of the Wagner Ranch Nature Area and proposed to build a turtle box as a shelter. The Friends agreed to seek a western pond turtle from local rescue programs. A small male Western Pond Turtle, named Mr. T, was released into the pond during a ceremony in June 2016. As the school year got underway, children in the Nature Area programs would spot Mr. T sunning himself on a log.

Reg Barrett, the Wildlife Chair for the Friends, began digging out the overgrown bulrushes to open up the pond for Mr. T and to create an island for the turtle as a safe haven from predators. With the improvements to the pond, a second male Western Pond Turtle was made available for the Nature Area.

On a glorious afternoon, Sunday, April 23, a crowd of parents and children gathered at the pond to witness the release of the new turtle. They had all come to the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Wildlife Festival to enjoy nature activities and celebrate Earth Day. A little earlier, many of the children had voted



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
Large male turtle named Yertle being released into the pond at Wagner Ranch Nature Area.


for their favorite name for the new turtle. Nearby, Mr. T was sunning on a log and quietly observing the hubbub.

Barrett held up the large male turtle and told how the boy who loved turtles had made this project possible and that all the children gathered at the pond could also do projects to help nature and their communities. Yertle was the name with the largest vote – a name drawn from the cautionary tale of *Yertle the Turtle* by Dr. Seuss.

Upon release, Yertle sat on the log next to Mr. T for a split second before swimming quickly to the cover of the bulrushes. Meanwhile, Mr. T continued to observe from his log. A little later, he slipped into the water and swam towards the shore to peer at a child on the bank who was using a net to catch water boatman bugs. If the two turtles do well over the next year, the Nature Area Pond may qualify to receive a female turtle.

[SEE YERTLE page 18]

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## CALENDAR

## ON THE CALENDAR

## JUNE

- 1 **California Shakespeare** presents *As You Like It* by William Shakespeare through June 18. Tickets are available through the Cal Shakes Box Office at 510.548.9666 or by visiting [www.calshakes.org](http://www.calshakes.org). See article page 13.
- 2 **Orinda Starlight Village Players** presents Agatha Christie's *The Unexpected Guest* through July 1, Friday and Saturdays at 8:30 p.m., Thursday June 29 at 8:00 p.m., and Sunday June 25 at 4:00 p.m. For more information and tickets call 925-528-9225 or email [info@orsvp.org](mailto:info@orsvp.org). See article page 13.  
**First Friday Forum** features Judge Peggy Hora talking on "Justice In Our Courts" at Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church, 49 Knox Drive, Lafayette, 1:30 p.m. Refreshments served at 1 p.m. in Fellowship Hall prior to the presentation. Call 925-283-8722. See article page 7.
- 3 **Orinda Library Art Gallery** presents Botanical Art from Alcatraz, Photographs and Glass Art through June 30. Catherine Watters will present a PowerPoint talk about botanical art created from flora at Alcatraz at 3 p.m. in the Orinda Library Auditorium. An artist reception follows from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. where light refreshments will be served. See article page 12.
- 6 **Orinda Books** present Chef Charlie Vollmar with a cooking demonstration and luncheon: \$35 includes great recipes, helpful cooking skills, and techniques. 11:30 a.m. 276 Village Square, Orinda, [info@orindabooks.com](mailto:info@orindabooks.com), 925-254-7606.
- 7 **Parks and Rec Art and Garden Center** groundbreaking, 11 a.m., Wilder.
- 8 **Orinda Books Story Time** with Cathy G. A lively hour of books and fun for 2-4 year-olds and their grown-ups. Also June 15, 22, and 29. 10 a.m., 276 Village Square, [info@orindabooks.com](mailto:info@orindabooks.com), 925-254-7606.
- 13 **Concerts-in-the-Park** featuring Lucky Losers (Contemporary Blues); Food Truck: El Ranchero (Taco truck); Orinda Community Center Park, 6:30 p.m.
- 14 **The Second Wednesday Book Group** will discuss *Alexander Hamilton* by Ron Chernow, Orinda Books, 276 Village Square, 3 p.m.
- 15 **Orinda Books Summer Kids Programs** with Gianna Marino introducing *Splotch*, her new book for 4-6-year-olds, 276 Village Square, 6 p.m.  
**Movie-in-the-Park** featuring *Sing*, Orinda Community Center Park, 8:15 p.m.
- 20 **Concerts-in-the-Park** featuring Juke Joint (Classic Soul); Food Truck: Pia's Pizza; Orinda Community Center Park, 6:30 p.m.
- 21 **Three-Quarter-Century Club** celebrates the 50th Anniversary of the "Summer of Love" with featured speaker Dennis Erokan. Orinda Community Church Fellowship Hall, 11 Irwin Way, 11:30 to 1:30 p.m. Contact John Fazel at [runmtns@prodigy.net](mailto:runmtns@prodigy.net) or 925-324-2017. See article page 1.
- 24 **Orinda Books** hosts Gloria Dunn-Violin who presents "ReVivement: *Having a Life After Making a Living*," 276 Village Square, 11 a.m.  
**Orindawoods** hosts Ace It!, the 15th annual benefit for breast cancer awareness. 8:30 a.m. For more information, to go [orindawoodstennis.com](http://orindawoodstennis.com). See article page 8.
- 27 **Orinda Books - Literary Luncheon:** Thrity Umrigar will introduce her new novel, *Everybody's Son*. Enjoy a light luncheon and a presentation by one of our favorite authors. \$10 - call 925-254-7606 to make a reservation. Space is limited. 276 Village Square, 11:30 a.m.  
**Concerts-in-the-Park** featuring Fog City Swampers (Classic Rock & Roll); Food Truck: An the Go (Asian Fusion); Orinda Community Center Park, 6:30 p.m.
- 29 **Orinda Books - Literary Luncheon Series** with Meg Gardiner presenting *Unsub*; 276 Village Square, 11:30 a.m. Enjoy light luncheon, \$10. Call 925-254-7606.  
**Movie-in-the-Park** featuring *The BFG*, Orinda Community Center Park, 8:15 p.m.

## AT THE LIBRARY

All events are free unless otherwise specified. For more information, call 254-2184 or visit [www.ccclib.org/locations/Orinda.html](http://www.ccclib.org/locations/Orinda.html).

- 1 **ESL Conversation Circle** for adults, practice and improve English conversation skills in a small, informal group, 1 to 2:30 p.m. Registration not required. Also June 8, 15, 22 and 29.
- 2 **Lego Club** 4 p.m. Builders and creators in grades K through 5 are invited to our beginning Lego Club. Free build or be inspired by that day's theme. Also June 16 and 30.
- 3 **Dave Rocha Jazz Trio in Concert** 1 p.m. Join the Dave Rocha Jazz Trio to kick off our Summer Reading Program. This program is sponsored by the Friends of the Orinda Library. Orinda Library Auditorium.
- 4 **The Aging Brain** 1:30 p.m. Dr. Patrick Arbore will discuss the Aging Brain. Sponsored by the Friends of the Orinda Library. Orinda Library Auditorium.
- 13 **Orinda Library Writers Group** 6:30 p.m. Meet with a friendly group of beginning writers in a supportive environment to motivate, critique and inspire one another. Share two pages of your writing (any genre) and get feedback from the group. Group Study Room A, Orinda Library. Also June 27.
- 15 **Some of My Best Friends Are Super Sleuths: Let Me Introduce You!** 6:30 p.m. Join Acalanes Adult Education instructor Joan Trezek for a presentation on what makes our favorite detectives such engaging characters. She will cover detectives you may already know and love.
- 16 **Mystery Book Club** members read and discuss *Charcoal Joe* by Walter Mosley, Tutoring Room, 3 p.m. Adult program.
- 21 **Brain Whisperer: Unleash the Wonders of Your Mind** 6:30 p.m. Steven Peterson will share with us the secrets to empowering your brain to be the best it can be. Orinda Library Garden Room. Sponsored by the Friends of the Orinda Library. Adult program.
- 22 **Contra Costa Tale Spinners** 7 p.m. Join this lively group to tell or listen. This is storytelling for adults with a featured teller every month. The program usually takes place in the Gallery Room of the Orinda Library.
- 24 **The Amazing Bubblesmith** 3 p.m. See the Bubblesmith build a better bubble, using his hands, loops, and other devices. Kids (5-11), All Ages.
- 29 **Flower Power - an Asian Art Museum Docent Lecture** 1 p.m. Join an Asian Art Museum Docent in exploring the highlights of the museum's Flower Power exhibition. Sponsored by the Friends of the Orinda Library. Orinda Library Garden Room. Adult program.

## CLUB MEETINGS

**Diablo Star Chapter #214**, Order of the Eastern Star. Second Monday, 7:30 p.m. Orinda Masonic Center, Karen Seaborn, 925-689-0995.

**Friends of the Joaquin Moraga Adobe**. Third Monday, 7:30 p.m., Garden Room, Orinda Li-

## Summer Concert Series and Outdoor Movies Start in June



BOBO HAKINS

The Lucky Losers featuring vocalists Phil Berkowitz and Cathy Lemons opens the park concerts on June 13.

By SALLY HOGARTY  
Editor

If you're looking for something to do on a warm summer night, look no further than the Orinda Community Center Park. Thanks to the Orinda Parks and Rec Foundation, the Orinda Community Foundation, Rotary Club of Orinda and the City of Orinda, Tuesdays and Thursdays will be filled with lots of family-friendly entertainment.

It all begins on June 13 with the soulful music of **The Lucky Losers**, featuring vocalists Cathy Lemons and Phil Berkowitz and their five-piece ensemble. The popular duo specializes in their own inventive spin on '60's Chicago blues and classic R&B.

On June 20, the six-piece horn band **Juke Joint** brings its classic soul and

R&B music of the '60s and '70s, including tunes by James Brown, Otis Redding and more. **The Fog City Swampers** close out the June concerts on June 27 with a high energy show full of classic songs covering Lynyrd Skynyrd, Led Zeppelin, The Rolling Stones, Fleetwood Mac and many more. All concerts take place from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Food trucks will be at each concert.

For younger residents and those young-at-heart, Park and Rec features the animated film **Sing** on June 15 followed by **The BFG** on June 29. Thursday night movies begin at dusk, approximately 8:15 p.m. Those attending are encouraged to bring a blanket and a picnic.

For more information and a complete listing of summer concerts and movies, call 925-254-2445 or go to [www.cityoforinda.org](http://www.cityoforinda.org).

brary, [www.moragaadobe.org](http://www.moragaadobe.org).

**Friends of the Orinda Creeks**. Fourth Wednesday, 8:30 a.m., May Room, Orinda Library, 925-253-1997.

**Guided Meditation**. Wednesdays, 9 a.m., St. Mark's United Methodist Church, 451 Moraga Way, Orinda, focuses on health, harmony and wholeness, 925-254-5965

**Lamorinda Alcohol Policy Coalition**. Third Wednesday, 10 to 11:30 a.m., Orinda City Hall Sarge Littlehale Room, 925-687-8844, ext. 227.

**Lamorinda Nature Walk and Bird watching** for seniors. Wednesdays, 9 to 11 a.m., free. Call 925-254-2445 for weekly meeting place.

**Lamorinda Sirs** for retired men. Second Wednesday, 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Holy Trinity Cultural Center, 1700 School St., Moraga, Pete Giers, 925-254-4667.

**Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary**. Every Friday, 7 a.m., Lafayette Park Hotel, 3287 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette, <http://www.lamorindasunrise.com> or 925-283-8288. Visit the website for weekly topics.

**Lamorinda Toastmasters**. Every Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., Temple Isaiah, 945 Risa Road, Lafayette, <http://lamorinda.toastmastersclubs.org/>.

**Orinda Junior Women's Club** community service group. First Tuesday, September through June, 7 p.m., [www.orindajuniors.org](http://www.orindajuniors.org).

**Orinda Rotary**. Every Wednesday, noon, Orinda Community Center, 28 Orinda Way, 925-254-2222, [www.lamorindasunrise.com](http://www.lamorindasunrise.com).

**Orinda Association**. Second Monday, 7 p.m., Orinda Library, May Room, 925-254-0800.

**Orinda Hiking Club**. Every weekend and first Wednesday, [www.orindahiking.org](http://www.orindahiking.org) or Ian at 925-254-1465.

**Orinda Historical Society**. Call 925-254-1353 for times and location of meetings.

**Orinda Job's Daughters**. First and third Monday, 7 p.m., 9 Altarinda Road, 925-283-7176.

**Orinda/Tabor (Czech Republic) Sister City Foundation**. Fourth Thursday, 7 p.m., social, 7:30 p.m., meeting, call 925-254-8260 for location.

**Orinda Teen Advisory Council**. Second Wednesday, 4 p.m., Community Center, 28 Orinda Way, email [orindateenadvisorycouncil@gmail.com](mailto:orindateenadvisorycouncil@gmail.com).

**Orinda Woman's Club**. Second Tuesday, 9:30 a.m. to noon, call Jean Barnhart, 925-254-3881, or [www.orindawomansclub.org](http://www.orindawomansclub.org).

## CITY/FIRE/MEETING SCHEDULE

**City Council**. First and third Tuesdays, 7 p.m., Library Auditorium, [www.cityoforinda.org](http://www.cityoforinda.org).

**Historic Landmarks Committee**. Fourth Tuesday, 3 to 5 p.m., Library Garden Room. Call 925-788-7323.

**Moraga-Orinda Fire District**. First and third Wednesday of the month, 7 p.m. Visit [www.mofd.org/board/meetings](http://www.mofd.org/board/meetings); meeting location will be posted on the agenda.

**Planning Commission**. Second and fourth Tuesdays, 7 p.m., Orinda Library Auditorium, [www.cityoforinda.org](http://www.cityoforinda.org).

Send calendar items to Jill Gelster at [calendar@aspenconsult.net](mailto:calendar@aspenconsult.net)







VOLUNTEERS

# NOLB Helps Those Who Helped America

By BOBBIE DODSON  
Staff Writer

“I became involved with No One Left Behind (NOLB) because I feel America owes a debt to Afghans who were United States (US) military translators and put their lives on the line for the US mission in Afghanistan,” says Orindan Carol Sebilias.

A national organization, the San Francisco East Bay Chapter of NOLB, operates in Contra Costa and Alameda Counties and has provided services to more than 150 families since August 2015.

As a provision of their service, these men were promised that if they worked honorably for two years they would receive safe haven in the U.S. upon issuance of a Special Immigrant Visa (SIV). While in the service, they are vetted every six months by Homeland Security, the CIA and the FBI and have polygraphs every six months. The SIV is granted only to those who worked for

the US in Afghanistan or Iraq and qualifies them and their immediate family for admission. The approval process, however, often takes three to four years, during which time many are killed by the Taliban for their U.S.-related work.

“Families arrive here with only one suitcase apiece,” Sebilias notes, “and the U.S. Government-funded resettlement agency’s obligation is to provide support only for the first 90 days. To become self-sufficient in a new land in this short time is practically impossible. The commitment of NOLB is to support each refugee family for five years, at which time they become eligible for citizenship. We provide the long term safety net which is needed,” Sebilias adds.

Family mentors are assigned to families to help them navigate American life. Mentors provide knowledge of the community, procure and deliver gently used household donations, connect participants with health or dental care, transport them to appoint-

ments, and, in short, do whatever is needed to help them begin their new life. They are someone to call in an emergency, to be their American friend and anchor.

Sebilias continues, “Generally the men speak English; many are college educated or have a high school diploma. Women generally do not speak English. Often, they lived in a province where schooling stopped for women when the war broke out. A young husband told me, ‘After two years here, we have done well, especially my wife. In Afghanistan, she was not allowed to leave the family compound unescorted. Now, she goes to school, shops and has her driver’s license. At home, under Taliban rule, women were not allowed to drive and in some provinces, not even allowed to ride in cars.’”

NOLB works hard to get women in language classes but if they have young children, it is difficult unless there is free daycare. “My top priority is assigning home tutors. An in-home tutor visits for an hour and a half per week. They must be women because of the cultural taboo against women being alone with a male to whom they are not related,” Sebilias explains. “For the most part, the Afghan women are extremely enthusiastic,” Sebilias enthuses, “about learning English and finally having the opportunity to attend school. One young lady, with a sixth grade education, walks 45 minutes to school with her child four days per week, rain or shine, and then another 45 minutes home. Then, she attends night school twice a week to speed up her English.”

Another Orinda volunteer, Michelle Logan, says, I think the experience of coming here and not knowing English or the system is daunting but to have a mentor



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
William Grace (L), an Acalanes senior, delivering a bike and some clothes to an Afghan interpreter, face disguised.

who can help you navigate things makes it less challenging. I feel as if I’m making a real difference in my client’s life. I love how I can sit in her home and very quickly we feel like good friends even though in the beginning we hadn’t had a good way to communicate. Also, I’ve developed gratitude for the opportunities in education I and my daughters have had, which are so often denied Afghan women.”

Knowing the intense competition for attaining good jobs, NOLB tries to help the Afghans, mostly men since they know English, attend college. It’s a struggle for them to make time to attend college while paying Bay Area prices for rent and supporting their family when they usually have to enter the job market in low paying jobs. Likely, they are the sole support for their family, at least until the women learn enough English to get a job. Sebilias recalls in talking to one client she asked, “So, are

[SEE NOLB page 18]

# Volunteer Opportunities This Summer

By BOBBIE DODSON  
Staff Writer

“With summer vacation, a time when many of our school year activities are put on hold, why not try out a new volunteer opportunity? It will help others and make you feel good,” says Marie Waterman of the Orinda Association who is constantly seeking volunteers.

“As the 4th of July approaches, when one of Orinda’s biggest events takes place, there is a need for many volunteers. This celebration began in the early 1980s. Thousands gather to view the parade after a pancake breakfast and flag raising. After the parade, the park is filled with booths, where there are displays, games and music. And don’t forget the Pick Up Band. Please contact me at 925-254-0800 if you can help on this

day,” Waterman asks.

She is also looking for drivers for the “Seniors Around Town (SAT)” program which provides alternative transportation for Orinda seniors no longer able to drive and who may not qualify for the County Connection LINK system. It offers door to door transportation to eligible Orinda Seniors at no cost. Volunteers using their own personal vehicles provide rides to doctor appointments, errands and social events in the Lamorinda, Berkeley and Walnut Creek areas, Monday through Friday between the hours of 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. Volunteer drivers must complete a thorough DMV and criminal background check along with an interview and orientation. Call SAT at 925-402-4506.

The Orinda Association website lists a host of organizations where residents can volunteer. There is a short summary of what each one does, its website, and its contact number. Some that might interest you include: “Art in Public Places,” “Friends of Orinda Library,” and the “Lamorinda Adult Respite Center.”

Waterman concludes: “Recently, someone on my ‘Nextdoor’ site said she was new to the community and looking for volunteer opportunities. A flood of ideas came in such as ‘White Pony Express’ which provides food and clothing to those in need in our county; monumentcrisiscenter.org, which also helps the homeless and needy; ‘Nature Area of Wagner Ranch’ for those who enjoy working out of doors; ushering for the San Francisco Symphony afternoon and evening concerts (415-503-5325) for music lovers; and shelterinc.org, where teens and adults work together; or the

[SEE VOLUNTEER page 18]



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Seniors Around Town driver Tish Harwood helps rider Mary Shahrohk into her car for a trip to her doctor.



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SCOUTS

# Orinda Boy Scout Troop 237 Announces Six New Eagle Scouts

By SARA LEE KIM  
Contributing Writer

Members of Orinda Boy Scout Troop 237 – Adam Fahd, Soren Faulkner, Will Fehrstrom, Nicholas Kim, Diego Martell and Mark Presten – achieved Scouting’s highest rank of Eagle Scout. Their Eagle Court of Honor celebrating their achievement will be held on June 11, at Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church. Scoutmaster Dan Lyons will present the awards to the scouts.

Fahd’s Eagle Scout project aimed at helping underprivileged children at St. Cornelius Catholic School in Richmond by collecting books for grade levels K-5. The project spanned five months and 1,200 books were gathered, tagged and delivered to the school. Fahd is a sophomore at Miramonte High School.

Faulkner was inspired to give back to the Latin Club at Miramonte High School. He directed his fellow students to “build a monument more lasting than bronze,” complete with inlaid Roman mosaic patio and two benches, which creates an outdoor community space for Latin Club members. He is a senior at Miramonte High School and will attend University of California Santa Cruz this fall.

Fehrstrom wanted to serve the homeless in our community by collecting, sorting, packaging and distributing toiletry items for the upcoming winter months. Fehrstrom and his team collected enough supplies to make individual hygiene kits for more than 125 homeless men, women and children in our county. He is a senior at Miramonte High School and will attend UCLA this fall.

For his Eagle Scout project, Kim wanted to help children and families struggling toward self-sufficiency. He partnered with the St. Vincent Day Home in West Oakland, and, with the assistance of fellow scouts, Kim led the design, construction and delivery of a much-needed, large 6-door wood cabinet with shelves to hold books, supplies and toys. Kim is a junior at the Head-Royce School.

Martell, former Senior Patrol Leader of Troop 237, led the solicitation, organization and assembly of 23 comprehensive emergency preparedness kits for Mount Pleasant Elementary School, a low-resource school in San Jose. His project ensures that 400 students and faculty will be provided for in the event of an emergency. Martell, a senior at the Head-Royce School, will attend Yale University this fall.

Presten organized his Eagle Scout project to benefit the patients of Children’s Hospital Oakland. Having spent 32 nights in traction with a femur injury when he was 5, Presten was aware of how important new toys are for child recovery and physical therapy. Presten organized a team of Orinda scouts and raised the following for the hospital: 112 new Lego sets, 95 new Play-Doh containers, 400 character band-aids, and various toys and books. Presten, graduating from The College Preparatory High School, will attend Johns Hopkins University this fall.

◆ VOLUNTEER from page 17

‘Animal Rescue Foundation (arlife.org).’ The possibilities for service are endless.”



Troop 237’s newest Eagle Scouts (L-R) Will Fehrstrom, Soren Faulkner, Adam Fahd, Diego Martell, Mark Presten and Nicholas Kim.

◆ NOLB from page 17

you working a couple of jobs now?”

He answered, “A couple of jobs. Do you think I’m lazy? I have three jobs.”

Bobbie Preston, M.D., Moraga’s Citizen of the Year in 2017, started the local chapter of No One Left Behind. She has organized a network of mentors, tutors, and donors from the Lamorinda area. She appreciates their help and is always looking for more people to fill the ranks in providing all the needs for the Afghan families beginning life anew in our area. She and her staff have found volunteers for special requests such as a driving instructor to help pass the licensing test, and when donated bicycles needed repairing, there was a repair man who stepped forward. The list goes on and on, and they hope to add women who can help with sewing classes.

Afghan families are very involved in helping one another. Many house and feed refugees in their small homes at their own expense, often for weeks or months, and they often get together for multi-family gatherings. NOLB has held several community events, including warm coat, household and computer giveaways as well as family fun days.

“I’ve been meeting once a week with the wife of a family for almost two years, mostly working on teaching her English. I’ve become quite attached to all the family,” says Deborah deLambert, who is also from Orinda. “I got involved with NOLB because I felt sad and helpless whenever I read about war refugees, and responsible, as an American, for their plight. I want to do something to help. Adjusting to this new

culture can be daunting. It’s a wonderful feeling to think I may be making the adjustment a bit easier. Since the election, with the anti-refugee rhetoric, my client fears for her family’s safety despite their special immigrant status. I feel a responsibility to be a friendly American face, welcoming her and showing true appreciation for the sacrifices she and her family made to help our military.”


NOLB is seeking new volunteers, from home visitors to assess household needs, to tutors and mentors, to those who can pick up and deliver furniture. Carol Sebilias concludes, “I think of all our volunteers as the face of America to these refugees. Initially, they may be the only Americans they know and these acts of kindness impart to them the true American spirit. Contact Eastbayvolunteers@nooneleft.org.

If you would like to make a cash donation funds can be sent to No One Left Behind, Inc., P.O. Box 3641, Merrifield, VA 22116, with the memo line annotated “For use by San Francisco East Bay Chapter.”

◆ YERTLE from page 14

Rescued female Western Pond Turtles are placed in breeding programs to increase turtle numbers. The Red-eared turtles (an eastern species), which were introduced by the pet trade, have spread throughout California and are displacing the native Western Pond Turtles.

If you come to the Olive Festival at the Nature Area on October 1, you may spot Mr. T and Yertle watching you from their island. Visit [www.frwna.org](http://www.frwna.org) for pictures of the pond.





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BUSINESS BUZZ

◆ BUZZ from page 20

contractor pet sitters whom she carefully screens and approves.

“All of my pet sitters are background checked, which is very important. We specialize in overnight pet care in our clients’ homes to reduce anxiety for all. This is especially the case with dogs, who experience more anxiety than other animals when left behind,” says Cline.

In addition to overnight pet care service, Cline offers “drop bys” during the day to walk dogs or administer medication. She even offers a pet taxi service, taking animals to veterinarian appointments. Services and rates vary depending on the number of pets in a household and the needs of each individual client. “We provide a detailed contract for each client, entailing what we do for their pet, always protecting our client’s privacy,” points out Cline.

Cline cares for all varieties of household pets, including hamsters, gerbils, fish and

birds, in addition to dogs and cats. “With Orinda being my busiest area, there are several reviews on Next Door website prospective clients may check. I am insured and bonded,” she says.

In March of this year, StayCare Pet Sitting made the City Voter A-1 list for 2017, being named the Best Pet Sitter of the Bay Area.

With the high demand for pet sitting, Cline is constantly working with little free time to spare. When she does enjoy a break, giving back to her community is of the highest priority. Cline volunteers as a driver with the Orinda Association’s Seniors Around Town program, providing no cost, door-to-door transportation for eligible Orinda seniors.

For more information about StayCare Pet Sitting, visit the website at [www.staycarepetsitting.com](http://www.staycarepetsitting.com) or call owner Cara Cline at 888-508-2246.

**Atma Yoga Opens at the Crossroads**

Husband and wife team Carlo and Thea Fiatarone recently launched Atma Yoga studio at 99 Brookwood Road. The studio is part of the Academy of Language and Music Arts and is located on the second floor of the building.

Soon after their wedding five years ago, both Carlo and Thea began practicing this ancient system of exercise. “We began yoga together, and I discovered the benefits involved becoming more limber in my basketball games and immediately became passionate about it. I appreciate not only the physical benefits, but the spiritual aspect as well. Practicing yoga helps me become the best person I can be,” says Carlo. Atma is derived from the Sanskrit, and loosely translated means the soul, spirit, or truest self.

“Having just opened our doors last month, we are offering two attractive options. We have a drop-in rate of \$12 per

class or a one-month unlimited for \$62. For Father’s Day, the first class is free for all dads out there,” says Thea. The variety of specific class offerings range from Vinyasa Flow, Hatha Flow, Yin Yoga, Kirtan Flow and a Children’s Yoga and Mindfulness class. Enthusiasts may select two private sessions for \$100.

With 10 instructors, Atma Yoga features a flexible schedule operating seven days a week with class offerings mostly in the morning and late afternoon. The first class is at 6:30 a.m. and the last class begins at 6:30 p.m.

“With the purchase of an individual membership the member receives an additional benefit of bringing one friend free of charge each month,” he adds.

For more information about Atma Yoga, visit the website at [www.atma.studio](http://www.atma.studio) or call 925-291-0800 or bump them an email at [info@atma.studio](mailto:info@atma.studio).



Husband and wife team Carlo and Thea Fiatarone recently opened Atma Yoga.

Something to Howl About...  
Animal Tales

The Vacation Dilemma



Jennifer Conroy

Vacation time. And what if the biggest question of all is not where to go but what to do with your companion animal? The first decision, of course, is whether or not your animal is part of your vacation. There are many resorts, hotels, motels, and campgrounds that are pet friendly.

Dog lovers need to bring copies of vaccination certificates with them, or they may be refused admittance to parks and campgrounds. Traveling with any of your companion animals requires planning and common sense. Obvious travel items to pack include any medications, special food, favorite toys, etc. If your dog or cat has never been microchipped, now is the time to do it. It is a painless, inexpensive process that can literally save your animal’s life.

A growing vacation trend involves activities for dogs and their humans. These include training camps, play camps, and spas where you and your dog can get daily massages. Volumes have been written on the topic of traveling with your pet, and the Internet is an ideal resource for information on pet-friendly vacations and travel.

What can be more elusive is determining what to do if you plan to vacation without your animal. Day care? Overnight boarding? In-home visits?

The best way to make a decision that is good for both you and your companion is by figuring it out far in advance of vacation dates. Talk to friends, co-workers and/or staff at your veterinary facility. Contact your local animal shelter. Benefit from their

experiences.

Even if you have no plans to be away, send your dog to doggy day care for a few days. Such programs operate the way day care for children functions. You drop your pal off in the morning and pick her up later in the day. This gives you the opportunity to examine the facility and also, importantly, to examine your animal at the end of the day. Check for any bites or scratches, fleas or ticks, or any sign of trauma or unkemptness.

If you are considering overnight boarding for your companion while you are away, I strongly recommend a trial run of this as well. In fact, I suggest trying out several different boarding facilities. Not only will you be able to determine which facility you and your animal prefer but, you will also help your companion become familiar with the whole boarding process.

The vacation solution that may be the easiest for your pet is for her to be able to stay at home and either have frequent daily home visits or to have an entrusted adult stay in the home with her. Ideally, that home visitor or resident caregiver is someone well known to the both of you.

Fortunately, here in the Bay Area, there are many excellent options and facilities for handling human-animal schedule needs. Just remember, that, like you, your pet is a creature of habit; so ease into schedule transitions by trying out solutions in advance to find the ones that work best for the both of you.



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### BenchMade Modern

While studying graphic design at the San Francisco School of the Arts, Orindan Edgar Blazona altered his course and decided to establish his own furniture manufacturing business, offering customized sofas and chairs built and delivered in 12 days. As he tells the story, a gallery owner in San Francisco saw the exquisite dining table and chairs that he made for his first apartment and offered to buy it from him. "He gave me \$400 for the dining set, and it was the most money I had ever seen at one time," smiles Blazona.

custom sofas by the inch, from 35 inches up to 10 feet, and in every shape and size from traditional to corner sectionals and chaises. Over 60 fabric choices and 10 to 15 leather selections provide consumers with abundant options.

"I like having the ability to order our sofa to fit our living space," says Orinda resident Jordana Saggese. "Every home is different," she continues, "and needs may be different for every family, so being able to order the perfect size to fit our lifestyle is important."

An Internet driven business, BenchMade Modern's factory is located in Los Angeles, with the showroom at 16<sup>th</sup> and Valencia Street in San Francisco. "When you buy



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Tara and Edgar Blazona, owners of BenchMade Modern.

"BenchMade Modern is a typical Bay Area start-up company. I wanted to fix this ridiculous 14-week lead time in the sofa manufacturing business, and, in order to accomplish this, I had to build my own facility," explains Blazona. He and his wife, Tara, manage the company that makes

a sofa from us, we give you a link to our manufacturing process," says Blazona. "You will monitor the process of building your sofa. Once it is ready to ship, we place a tracking device on your sofa and track it to your door. We provide free shipping, and if for any reason a customer is not satisfied, we offer 100 day returns," affirms Blazona.

Visit the website at [www.benchmade-modern.com](http://www.benchmade-modern.com) to view the "How it Works" video. Fabric swatches are sent by second day air for customers to view in their home. Once a style and fabric selection is made,



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## Monthly Advertiser Spotlight



CREDIT

Casa Orinda bartender Dawn Searls (L) and General Manager Claudia Tatia behind the restaurant's famed bar.

Renowned as the oldest restaurant in Contra Costa County, Casa Orinda, located at 20 Bryant Way, enjoys a past almost as colorful as one of its entrees.

Jack Snow opened the restaurant (then known as a roadhouse) in 1932. The Montana cowboy had come out west to work on the Caldecott Tunnel, and when he couldn't find a "watering hole," he opened his own and asked his brother Tommy to come out and help run the place. In those early days, the food was plentiful and the liquor strong with lively card games and other forms of gambling to keep patrons entertained.

Ivan Goyak became Jack Snow's partner and Ivan's son John remembers working as a busboy at the Casa when still a youngster. John's family bought full ownership from Snow in 1978. John is now the owner and has been at the Casa his entire working career.

Today, when restaurants tend to change owners and formats with the drop of a hat, it's a minor miracle that Casa Orinda has only had two owners: Jack Snow and the Goyak family. All these years later, the cowboy memorabilia, wagon wheel chandeliers and moose over the copper plate fireplace remain, along with the large, popular menu.

"Change isn't something our cus-

tomers want," says General Manager Claudia Tatia, whose husband Rocko is a long-time bartender at the Casa. "The Casa started with things like Fried Chicken, which remains one of our most popular items, and then added Italian entrees. Of course, the chef has daily specials, which allows him to be creative. And sometimes those specials, like our pan-seared chicken breast and grilled pork chops, find their way onto the regular menu. But, nothing seems to find its way off the menu," she adds.

Menu items aren't the only things that tends to stay at Casa Orinda. Jairo Gomez has worked in the kitchen for over 50 years overseeing the soups and sauces. Now, at 82 years old, he only works part time but still takes his job very seriously. Another fixture at the restaurant is hostess C Rose. "Sometimes, people stop in just to see what colorful clothing she's wearing that night," Tatia explains. "Many of our customers and employees have become quite close and often exchange information on various family members. We're sort of the 'Cheers' of Orinda."

For more information on this long-time Orinda News advertiser or to make dinner reservations, go to [www.casaorinda.net](http://www.casaorinda.net) or call 925-254-2981.

— Sally Hogarty, Editor

BenchMade Modern forwards a full scale print so customers may place it in their living room to see how it accommodates the space.

For more information about BenchMade Modern, visit the website at [www.benchmademodern.com](http://www.benchmademodern.com) or call 415-930-4400.

### StayCare Pet Sitting Based in Orinda

With over 20 years of pet sitting expertise, Cara Cline established StayCare Pet Sitting two years ago to serve Lamorinda, expanding her service to other Bay Area cities with the help of six independent

[SEE BUZZ page 19]



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Cara Cline of StayCare Pet Sitting

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