



# THE ORINDA NEWS

Gratis  
Volume 34, Number 3

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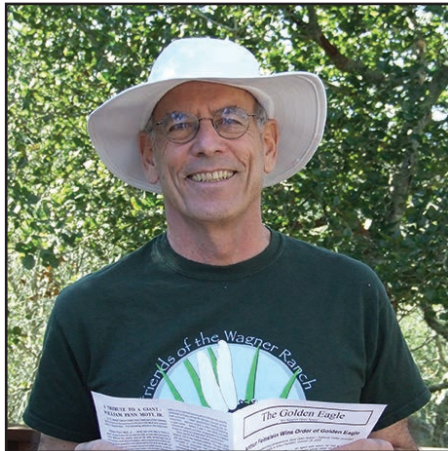
12 Issues Annually  
March 2019

## Why These Five Locals are Being Honored this Month



SALLY HOGARTY

**Andy and Carole Amstutz** are the Orinda Community Foundation's 2018 Citizens of the Year. They and the other awardees will be honored at a gala event on March 10 at the Orinda Country Club.



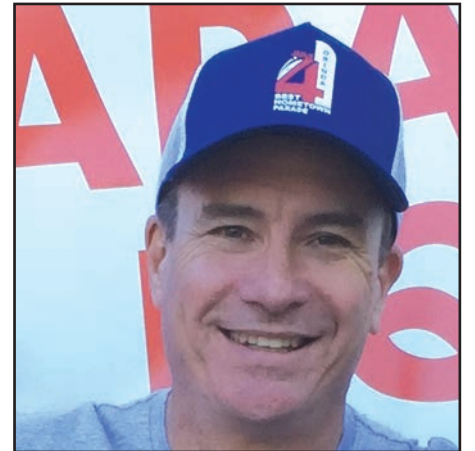
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

**William Hudson** has been chosen by the Orinda Association as the William Penn Mott, Jr. Environmental Award recipient.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

**Bobbie Landers** received one of The Orinda Association's 2018 Volunteer Award for her many years of service to the community.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

**Andy Radlow**, who helped The Orinda Association's 4th of July Celebration for five years, also received the OA's 2018 Volunteer Award.

By SIMAR KHANNA  
Editor

Most people around the city probably are familiar with the names of the five people who will be feted by The Orinda Association and the Orinda Community Foundation at a gala on March 10 for their

contributions to the city. They've become well-known after years of service.

But here are few things people might not know.

**Carole and Andy Amstutz, Citizens of the Year Award**

The Amstutz family moved to Orinda in 1968 from Hawaii because they heard the

schools were good, and they were expecting their third child.

Though the schools were indeed good, the town was "pretty white," says Andy Amstutz. The couple wanted their children to have a more diverse upbringing so Andy asked his employer, IBM, to transfer him to Hong Kong for three years. Which it did.

"It's so healthy to see the world from a big point of view," says Andy. "Living in Lamorinda is not the end of the Earth even though it is wonderful."

For nearly five decades, the couple has contributed to making Orinda wonderful for others. They volunteered with numerous organizations, including the Friends [SEE GALA page 17]

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### Taste of the World Food Trucks Return



DAVID DIERKS

Kicking off the spring and summer activities in the Community Park, Taste of the World Market returned Feb. 7, bringing the Thursday night Food Truck Feast to Orinda. Families braved the cold temperatures to enjoy the variety foods on offer. They included Roderick's BBQ, Cosa Nostra's Italian fare, Street Steam Bunz, SNK Wings, Mini Street Burgers, desserts by O My Crepes and libations from The Guzzler. The food trucks return every Thursday night to the parking area in front of the Community Center, 28 Orinda Way. For information, visit [www.tasteoftheworldmarket.com](http://www.tasteoftheworldmarket.com).

## ConnectOrinda Projects Come into Focus

By SALLY HOGARTY  
Executive Editor

Orinda's goal to identify streetscape and transportation projects that beautify and improve travel through the downtown is expected to come a step closer to fruition at the March 5 City Council meeting.

Scheduled for 7 p.m. in the Library Auditorium, the meeting will include a presentation by city staff and Fehr and Peers Transportation Consultants on projects that received the most favorable responses [SEE CONNECT page 13]



SALLY HOGARTY

This view of **San Pablo Creek** behind 23 Orinda Way could one day transform to a more pristine view from an outdoor restaurant if Project #19 is implemented.

### Opening Soon!

We are so close to opening and we look forward to serving the Orinda community once we do. There is still time to **sign up** at our **lowest rates** while the dust is flying.



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# Cal Shakes Set to Honor Luminaries at Guiding Stars Gala in Berkeley

By KATHRYN G. MCCARTY  
Staff Writer

Plan for an evening of celebration at California Shakespeare Theater's third annual "Guiding Stars" Dinner and Awards Ceremony.



ANNE HAMERSKY

Playwright **Octavio Solis** will receive the Make Award in celebration of his artistic achievements, including his 2018 play *Quixote Nuevo*.

According to Cal Shakes Publication Director Alicia Coombes, the gala is among the company's major annual fundraising activities. "The aim is to celebrate Cal Shakes, our patrons and artists, the work we do on stage, in schools, and in communities, and to raise money to continue supporting our programs, including our Artistic Learning and Artistic Engagement programs."

Cal Shakes will present Luminary Awards to individuals and organizations who exemplify its four core pillars of Make,

Learn, Engage and Support.

Educator and actor Lauren Spencer will be recognized with the Learn Award. A teaching artist, Spencer uses theater as a tool of empowerment and self-awareness to build cultural competence and student-centered learning.

The Engage Award will be given to Production Manager Joan Osato, a producer, photographer, designer and community organizer who has been a pivotal player in local and national theater for more than two decades.

The Support Award will be presented to Jennifer Sousae, the executive director of the RHE Charitable Foundation, whose philanthropic leadership has given Cal Shakes the capacity to create more impact through its programs.

Coombes said a Guiding Star award also will be given to a person "whose greatness inspires us."

The Make Award will be given to Playwright/Director Octavio Solis whose work speaks from the experience and to the concerns of people living in and around the United States/Mexico border. His world premiere *Quixote Nuevo* opened the 2018 Cal Shakes season.

Solis says he believes that much of what artists make passes unnoticed in the world. "That's why an audience is paramount for us. Our art is our gift to them, and oh, how satisfying when they respond so well," he says. To be honored by his Cal Shakes peers "is an assertion that I haven't been working in a vacuum, that I've managed to add to the mosaic of our collective cultural experience."

The gala begins with a cocktail reception, raffles and games, followed by dinner, awards and a live auction. The evening culminates with a celebratory dance party with live music.

"Last year's Guiding Stars was brilliant! The passion and generosity of nearly 250 guests garnered almost \$400,000 in contributions, ticket sales and winning bids on incredible trips and one-of-a-kind experi-

ences," says Coombes.

The gala takes place Saturday, March 9 at 6 p.m. at the Claremont Club & Spa in Berkeley. Tickets begin at \$350 and need to be reserved by March 7. Call 510-899-4907 or email [events@calshakes.org](mailto:events@calshakes.org) or visit [CalShakes.org](http://CalShakes.org) to purchase.

*Kathryn McCarty can be reached at [kathryng.mccarty@theorindanews.com](mailto:kathryng.mccarty@theorindanews.com).*

## Telly Leung is "Live at the Orinda" on March 14 with his *Sing Happy*

By LYNN KALMAR  
Assistant Editor

On Thursday, March 14, Broadway star Telly Leung returns to the Bay Area as this month's featured performer in the "Live at the Orinda" concert series. Leung made his Broadway debut in 2002 in the revival of *Flower Drum Song*, followed by a role in Sondheim's *Pacific Overtures* at the Roundabout Theater. Leung then originated the role of Boq in the Chicago production of *Wicked* and later appeared as a recurring character on television's *GLEE*. Leung has also released two solo albums, *I'll Cover You* and *Songs For You*. He comes to Orinda after a successful run in the title role in Broadway's *Aladdin*, with a new work he calls *Sing Happy*. The musical showcase tracks Leung's journey from growing up in Brooklyn to success on Broadway, exploring the ups and downs of life as a professional singer.

"Live at the Orinda" will continue next month with platinum-selling singer/songwriter Ann Hampton Callaway (*At the Same Time*) joined by her Broadway star and sister Liz Callaway (*Miss Saigon*, *Cats*) on Thursday, April 4, for their award-winning show *Sibling Revelry*. Tickets to the concert series at 2 Orinda Theatre Square are priced from \$55 - \$100. Subscribers enjoy substantial ticket discounts and first choice of reserved seats for the season. VIP subscribers and donors are also invited to private post-show receptions with each artist at Ciné Cuvée Wine Bar, adjacent to the theater. Information and tickets for the concert series are available at [www.lamorindatheatres.com](http://www.lamorindatheatres.com) or by calling 925-254-9065.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Direct from Broadway, **Telly Leung** returns to the Bay Area with *Sing Happy* at the Orinda Theatre.

*Lynn Kalmar can be reached at [lynnkalmar@gmail.com](mailto:lynnkalmar@gmail.com).*

## Submissions Open for Creative Writing Contest

Students with a passion for writing have a chance to win \$500 and their moment of fame with 2019 Poul Anderson Creative Writing Contest.

The contest, sponsored by Friends of the Orinda Library, is open to students who live in Orinda or attend high school here. Entry categories are Science Fiction/Fantasy, Essay/Memoir/Biography, Poetry and Short Story. Students may submit one entry in any of the four categories with no more than three entries.

Submission deadline is Friday, April 19 at noon. The contest is named in honor of the late Poul Anderson, a popular science-fiction writer and Orinda resident.

Winning entries will be posted on the Friends' website and inside the Orinda Library. Download an entry form at <http://friendsoftheorindalibrary.org/writingcontest/>. For more information email [contest@friendsoftheorindalibrary.org](mailto:contest@friendsoftheorindalibrary.org).

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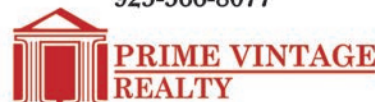
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## Renovation Update

Good news! We've cleared City Planning, Fire Dept and Environmental Health plan reviews. Lastly, we are in the queue to have our County Building Dept check.

We will reopen once we get a building permit and pass inspections!

Again, thanks for your patience. Please see our ads for updates on our reopening!

Yours Truly,  
Tim Miyamoto-Mills, Owner

THE ORINDA ASSOCIATION

**A Message From the OA President  
Recognition Well Deserved by Residents  
Being Honored at Annual Awards Gala**



CARLOS BALTODANO

There are many examples of volunteers in our community who make a difference and contribute in making our city a wonderful place to live. On March 10, the Orinda Association, along with The Orinda Community Foundation, will honor some of these special individuals.

This year, three separate types of awards will be presented. The Citizen of the

Year Award will be presented to Carole and Andy Amstutz for their long history in community involvement with the Friends of Wagner Ranch Nature Area, the Orinda Garden Club and the Lamorinda Village.

Bill Hudson will be presented the William Penn Mott, Jr. Environmental Award for developing and maintaining the Wagner Ranch Nature Area which has become a

great learning experience for students and adults alike. We are also proud to recognize two other outstanding residents with the Orinda Volunteer Awards: Bobby Landers and Andy Radlow.

Landers is being recognized for lifelong and ongoing service to the community. Landers joined Orinda's first City Council after being part of the campaign to incorporate. She has continued to remain active in creating the Tabor Sister City relationship with Orinda, as well as being active with Friends of the Joaquin Moraga Adobe.

Radlow will be recognized as the chair and manager of the Fourth of July Parade celebration for the past five years. The parade and park activities bring the entire community together. It takes thousands of volunteer hours and the supervision of more than 100 volunteers.

Congratulations and thank you to all.

continues to provide unmet and needed services to Orinda.

The association's mission is to maintain and improve the quality of life in Orinda. It does this by mobilizing volunteer efforts and promoting awareness and dialogue among residents on programs and issues of importance.

We deeply appreciate residents ongoing support and dedication to the OA. Due to your generous contributions, we have been able to experience success in the following programs and events:

- Orinda Fourth of July Parade and Celebration (36 Years);
- *The Orinda News* – published monthly and mailed free to more than 9,000 households and businesses;
- Seniors Around Town (SAT) – volunteer driver program for seniors;
- Volunteer Center – maintains website for volunteer opportunities;
- Orinda Classic Car Show – donations assist SAT and other nonprofits;
- Public Forums - OA along with League of Women Voters provides forums during City Council elections and for other important issues.

Please join us as a sponsor to continue to provide these important services and events. Let's keep Orinda vibrant! Learn more at [www.OrindaAssociation.org](http://www.OrindaAssociation.org) and [www.theorindanews.com](http://www.theorindanews.com).

**15th Annual Classic Car Show  
Set to Hit the Road in September**



SALLY HOGARTY

Chip Herman (2nd from left) turns over the keys to the car show, not to mention the Corvette, to Classic Car Show co-chairs Bill Waterman (in car) and Diane Lautz. John Vanek (far left) of Orinda Motors looks on.

By SALLY HOGARTY  
Executive Editor

Americans, and especially Californians, have long had a love affair with cars. Maybe a restored Model T, a classic cruiser or a sporty roadster sparked their interest in wanting something besides just transportation.

Whatever the reason, people still enjoy looking at and dreaming about owning a car from the past or a technical marvel of the future. One of the best ways to take a peek and maybe even a ride in one of these beauties is at the annual Orinda Classic Car Show.

Now entering its 15th year, the show, presented by Orinda Motors, takes place Saturday, Sept. 7, from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. The popular event features a plethora of classic and exotic cars displayed in and around Orinda Motors, 63 Orinda Way. As in previous years, the event culminates with a special "drive" through Orinda where attendees can ride in one of the cars for a small donation. Food will once again

be provided by Taverna Pellegrini.

"We will also have Lamorinda Idol singers and, we hope, the Miramonte Jazz Band providing entertainment while people enjoy all the great cars," says Bill Waterman, co-chair of the car show.

This popular local event began when resident Chip Herman, who had recently purchased his first classic – a '66 Mustang – noticed that others in Lamorinda had classic cars but didn't take them out that often. At the same time, Herman was looking for someone to take care of his Mustang and went to John Vanek at Orinda Motors. The men found they had a common interest in classic automobiles and before long, the idea of an Orinda Classic Car Show came to fruition.

Interested in a car show with a community feel, Herman organized a committee whose mantra became "let's have a little fun and raise a little money for a local cause." Herman found the perfect organization to donate to when he met Kate Wiley, founder of The Orinda Association's

[SEE CAR SHOW page 16]

**OA sponsors/donors**

One of the oldest organizations in the city, The Orinda Association ( OA ) has been providing services to the city for the past 73 years. In its early years, it functioned as a quasi-governmental organization. It provided services in such areas as planning, transportation and general community improvement. It has evolved into a nonprofit, non-political organization that



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**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.

Visit our office at 26 Orinda Way  
(Lower Level Library)  
Phone: 254-0800  
[www.OrindaAssociation.org](http://www.OrindaAssociation.org)

The Orinda Association  
P.O. Box 97  
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**Classic Car Show**

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# Editorial

## Greetings From New Editor

When was the last time your child's achievement was mentioned in an online post or website? Did you print it out and put it on the refrigerator? Probably not, because it just doesn't have the same feeling as seeing it in newsprint.

That is one of the biggest losses we have faced with the decline of local newspapers and community news coverage. Classically trained journalists are vanishing and along with them so are stories about the people and events in small cities like Orinda.

Sure we have Nextdoor and Facebook, but information from such sites, as we have come to learn, is not always vetted, fact-checked or verified. These digital alternatives fail to give people that warm and fuzzy feeling they get after pinning a source of pride on a large appliance for family and friends to see. Or learning about their neighbor's riveting life story. Or discovering that someone in town has accomplished something that changed people's lives.

Orinda is fortunate to have a source for this kind of old-fashioned journalism

with *The Orinda News*. This city is rare in its ability to provide residents with thoughtful journalism that manages to connect neighbors, educate people and activate civic engagement.

That's the kind of service which drew me to journalism many decades ago. As a reporter and editor on papers big and small, I've covered a lot of important issues. But my first love has always been community journalism, and I'm back at it as the editor of *The Orinda News*.

I'll be working closely with Sally Hogarty, who remains on staff as executive editor. I look forward to hearing about things which are important to readers and creating more of those scrapbook memories that only local journalism can deliver. Reach out to me at editor@theorindanews.com.

— Simar Khanna

## Correction

In February's Everyday Orinda column, the name of the president of the Friends of Orinda Creeks was misspelled. His name is Bob Stoops.

## Letters to the Editor

### Where Does Worth Stand on Housing Policy, Legislation?

Every city and county in California is required to have a General Plan. The plan must have elements covering land use, open space, noise, conservation and safety.

In recent years, the state has required such cities as Orinda to construct additional housing to alleviate a perceived shortage of housing. Some of this housing is to be set aside for low-income people.

On Feb. 23, 2018, City Council Member and Mayor Amy Worth wrote to State Senator Scott Wiener, the sponsor of Senate Bill 827, which, if enacted, would have mandated the construction of housing within 1/4 mile of a frequently-used bus stop or 1/2 mile of train station. In her letter, Worth wrote, "As the mayor, I was authorized by the action of the City Council to forward this letter of opposition. SB 827 would exempt certain housing projects from locally developed and adopted height limitations, densities, parking requirements, and design review standards." SB 827 died in committee in 2018.

On June 25, Worth wrote two more letters to members of the state legislature. She objected to Assembly Bill 2923, which was enacted into law in September. AB 2923 gave BART the ability to construct new housing on BART-owned land. Worth, in her letters stated, "Land use authority is a primary responsibility of local government."

On Oct. 3, Worth, as a candidate for reelection to the City Council, said she favors

local control. Her comments were made in public at a candidates' forum.

Worth is a member of the nine-county Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC), an organization charged with managing Bay Area transportation matters. On Dec. 19, Worth voted in favor of a motion authorizing an MTC commission to support the CASA Compact. According to MTC's public information office, "The CASA Compact is a 15-year emergency policy package to confront the region's housing crises head on. It includes a series of policy reforms that will allow the Bay Area to build more housing at all income levels . . ."

Orinda's residents need to know if Worth truly supports local control or favors having MTC, the directors of which are not elected directly by voters, making housing policy for Orinda.

—Richard S. Colman

### Transit-friendly Housing Laws by State a Threat to Orinda

California housing legislation for the next two years is clearly clustered around housing. The new regional housing policy CASA Compact, brainchild of the Metropolitan Transportation Commission's (MTC) CASA committee, if implemented, will decimate Orinda's character. It violates local democracy and Orinda's right to self-determination established at the time of our incorporation in 1987.

The California legislators drooled



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over MTC's Compact prior to approval by the MTC Commissioners and the Associated Bay Area Government (ABAG) directors. The Compact is a \$2.5 billion a year, 15-year housing plan consisting of 10 elements to confront the housing shortage exacerbated by Silicon Valley job growth but financed by all Bay Area homeowners and 101 Bay Area cities at \$1.5 billion a year, and the federal government at \$1 billion a year. MTC approved the CASA Compact on Dec. 19. ABAG directors approved it on Jan. 17. The CASA Compact is located here: <https://mtc.ca.gov/our-work/plans-projects/casa-committee-house-bay-area>

Kudos to Supervisor Candace Anderson (ABAG) for voting "no" on this Compact. Julie Pierce (ABAG) and Amy Worth (MTC) voted "yes."

Element 5 – Minimum Zoning near Transit -- is one egregious element supported by Senator Scott Wiener's one-size fits all recycled YIMBY-authored housing bill SB-827 (renamed SB-50). It strips local control of zoning and planning powers from Bay Area cities while handing it over to developers for "transit-rich" housing projects containing affordable units, proposed within 1/2-mile radius areas having busy bus stops (allowing

[SEE LETTERS page 14]

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POLICE / CHARITIES

# Busy Month for the Orinda Rotary Club with 70th Anniversary, Trivia Bee

By SIMAR KHANNA  
Editor


They've raised funds to enable high school students to travel to Haiti to install street lights on a remote island, sponsored a festival to showcase cultures represented in Orinda, and come to the aid of the victims of California fires.

Those and many other achievements of the Rotary Club of Orinda over the past decade will be celebrated when the club marks its 70th anniversary March 16 at the

Orinda Country Club.

The event will include historical videos and information about what the club has done since inception March 19, 1949. Students and others whose lives have been impacted by the club's various programs also are scheduled to speak, as is Rotary's district governor.

Most recently, the club worked with another nonprofit to send students to Haiti to install LED lights in a town on a remote island off Haiti's coast that had no power, [SEE ROTARY page 10]



## POLICE BLOTTER

January 1 through February 9, 2019

**Calls for Service**

911 Hangup: 27 incidents.  
Abandoned Vehicle: 2 incidents.  
Accident Property: 8 incidents.  
Alarm, False: 104 incidents.  
Barking Dog: 1 incident.  
Burglary, Auto: 2 incidents.  
Burglary, Commercial: 1 incident.  
Burglary, Miscellaneous: 1 incident.  
Civil Matter: 14 incidents.  
CVC Moving Violation: 110 incidents.  
CVC Non-Moving Violation: 85 incidents.  
Disturbing the Peace: 1 incident.  
Failure to Obey: 2 incidents.  
Found Property: 1 incident.  
Fraud Credit Card: 1 incident.  
Fraud False Pretenses: 1 incident.  
Grand Theft: 2 incidents.  
Grand Theft from Building: 1 incident.  
Grand Theft from Vehicle: 1 incident.  
Harassment: 1 incident.  
Hit & Run Misdemeanor: 4 incidents.  
Identity Theft: 4 incidents.  
Juvenile Disturbance: 2 incidents.  
Litter: 1 incident.  
Lost Property: 2 incidents.  
Loud Noise: 1 incident.  
Medical Hospital: 4 incidents.  
Missing Adult: 3 incidents.  
Motorist Assist: 1 incident.  
Occupied Stalled Vehicle: 4 incidents.  
Ordinance Violation: 5 incidents.  
Outside Assist: 35 incidents.  
Parking Detail: 110 incidents.  
Patrol Request: 24 incidents.  
Petty Theft: 2 incidents.  
Petty Theft from Vehicle: 3 incidents.  
Public Assembly Check: 9 incidents.  
Public Nuisance: 8 incidents.  
Reckless Driving: 17 incidents.  
School Check: 2 incidents.

Security Check: 29 incidents.  
Service to Citizen: 102 incidents.  
Shoplifting: 2 incidents.  
Shots Heard: 5 incidents.  
Suspicious Circumstances: 20 incidents.  
Suspicious Person Stop: 12 incidents.  
Suspicious Subject: 13 incidents.  
Suspicious Vehicle: 12 incidents.  
Suspicious Vehicle Stop: 16 incidents.  
Theft of Services: 1 incident.  
Threats: 2 incidents.  
Tow: 3 incidents.  
Traffic Collision/Property Damage: 4 incidents.  
Traffic Hazard: 22 incidents.  
Uncontrollable Juvenile: 1 incident.  
Vacation House Check: 30 incidents.  
Vandalism: 2 incidents.  
Vandalism Felony: 1 incident.  
Vehicle Theft: 2 incidents.  
Verbal Dispute: 4 incidents.  
Violation Restraining Order: 1 incident.  
Walk Through: 7 incidents.  
Welfare Check: 15 incidents.

**Arrest**

Assault with Deadly Weapon: 1 arrest.  
Burglary: 1 arrest.  
DUI: 3 arrests.  
DUI Misdemeanor: 1 arrest.  
Possession Stolen Property: 1 arrest.  
Shoplifting: 2 arrests.  
Warrant Arrest: 1 arrest.

**BART Statistics**

No incidents reported.

– Compiled by David Dierks  
Assistant Editor

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

### Orinda Woman's Club 2018 Recipients



SALLY HOGARTY

Orinda Woman's Club Vice President **Alison Kling** (R) presented **Scott Chavez** (L) from Contra Costa Crisis Center and **Gigi Crowder** of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) with checks in the amount of \$13,200 each to support the work of their respective organizations. The Crisis Center helps people going through various crises and puts them in touch with relevant resources in the community that can help keep them alive and safe. NAMI is the nation's largest grassroots mental health organization dedicated to building better lives for the millions of Americans affected by mental illness. The Orinda Woman's Club Festival of Trees fundraiser held on Nov. 15 provided the much-needed financial support for these organizations.



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CAR TIME / SCHOOLS

# CAR TIME

Maintenance is More than Just Oil Changes



JOHN VANEK

Different drivers have different ideas about what “car maintenance” really means.

It is indeed very important to change your engine oil regularly. Your engine will last longer and overall be more reliable. Most owners understand this and make a point to make the oil change ritual a priority. Others struggle with this concept.

Failing to change your oil regularly will cost more in the long run. Many folks consider an oil change as taking care of the car’s maintenance, but it is not true.

Let’s start with the definition of maintenance: “The process of maintaining or preserving someone or something or the state of being maintained.” There is a process when it comes to automotive maintenance

and it starts with the owner’s manual in your glove box.

The manufacturer has recommendations for the up-keep and will spell it out based on mileage intervals. Different intervals require different services, with oil changes and tire rotations being the most frequent. Some inspections incorporate an overall inspection of your vehicle. This is an important one especially on the 30,000, 60,000 and 90,000 mile intervals.

Oil change personnel are trained to change your oil and check an infinite amount of fluid levels. They have less experience and training than a certified automotive technician. These more involved inspections require experience to reliably report the condition of your car, truck or SUV. This involves a thorough inspection.

They are looking for potential issues like fluid leaks, oil leaks and tire wear issues due to worn suspension and steering. It is also important to have a proper brake inspection and have your battery tested. These items don’t get checked during a simple oil change. These are the kinds of things that can be easy to detect and dealt with in a calm fashion, on your terms.

When these inspections are neglected, it can turn your calm day into chaos. Now you have to deal with a dead battery, grinding brakes or a coolant leak that went from a little leak to being stuck on the side of the road. These inspections are designed for early warnings to keep you away from the chaos.

I understand you are worried the repair shop is going to find something wrong with

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- Review expenditures to ensure bond proceeds are spent for authorized purposes.
- Provide an annual report to the Board of Trustees at a public meeting.

**CBOC Member Terms and Meeting Information**

Terms of service are two years, and no CBOC member may serve more than three consecutive terms. CBOC meetings must occur at least once per year and will not exceed quarterly.

**Committee Representation**

The CBOC will include seven (7) total members:

- Business organization (1)
- Taxpayers organization (1)
- Senior citizens organization (1)
- Parent/guardian of a student enrolled in OUSD (1)
- Parent/guardian of a student enrolled in OUSD who is active in support of the District (1)
- Community at large (2)

**More Information**

For more information or to request an application, contact Debbie Jamieson at [djamieson@orindaschools.org](mailto:djamieson@orindaschools.org) or by phone at (925) 258-6201. **Deadline to apply is 4:30 p.m. on March 4, 2019.**

your car, and it will cost you money. This is indeed a reality. Are you worried that these suggestions are just a ploy to charge for stuff you don’t need? If this is a thought in your head, then you need to find a shop you can trust.

Most shops hire professional technicians who know what they are looking at. Most shops operate with honesty and integrity,

but it is OK to call them out to test their honesty. Ask to see the old parts or ask them to explain the situation so you can understand. Check their credentials and take recommendations from your friends. The best suggestion you can get is from somebody who has experience with a particular facility.

[SEE CAR TIME page 8]

# Do you feel like you are throwing your money away at the dealership service department?

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FORUM / BETWEEN THE LINES

# High-tech Pioneer Jim Marggraff to Speak on Artificial Intelligence

By BOBBIE DODSON  
Staff Writer

First Friday Forum (FFF) presents a cutting-edge topic this month: “Artificial Intelligence, Augmented Reality, Virtual Reality.” If you’ve wondered what these terms are about, Jim Marggraff is the person to explain.

Marggraff worked as a director in Google’s Virtual and Augmented Reality division, following the sale of Eyefluence, a company founded by him, to Google in 2016.

“Reality. We can augment it. We can make it virtual. What happens when we slam these alternate realities together with a new form of intelligence that is artificial? How do we reimagine ourselves as hyper-connected, enhanced individuals and communities?” he says. “In a stimulating, interactive presentation and discussion,



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
Tech entrepreneur **Jim Marggraff** will speak about potential intersections between artificial intelligence and virtual reality at the Forum March 1.

we’ll consider how humanity may evolve when AR meets VR meets AI.”

Marggraff can bring up other companies he has founded using these skills. Many may be familiar with his company, LeapFrog, which has impacted the lives of more than 100 million children and adults in reading, math and language skills, and has sales of more than \$1 billion.

Before LeapFrog, Marggraff was involved in inventing technologies and products, co-founding companies, assembling and inspiring teams, and pursuing world-changing ideas. He was an engineer on the founding team of StrataCom in 1984 (acquired by Cisco), and co-founded Explore Technologies in 1996 (acquired by LeapFrog), which develops technology to reframe people’s perception of geography with the world’s first Atlasphere, an interactive globe.

Another company he founded, Lifescribe, developed the first smartpen.

Marggraff’s entrepreneurialism and innovations have been covered by numerous publications including the *New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Atlantic Monthly* and *Business Week*. Among his awards are Toy of the Year for LeapFrog and Ernst and

Young’s Entrepreneur of the Year for the Northern California region. In addition, his LeapPad invention was listed in the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) as one of the top 150 inventions and contributions from MIT graduates.

On the local front, Marggraff is active with the Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary Club and supports public schools with technology innovations. He lives in Lafayette with his wife, M.J., and two children. He wrote *How to Raise a Founder with a Heart*, a book of stories, science and suggestions for parents who want to instill a founder’s mindset and skills in their children. In addition to Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, Marggraff holds 36 patents.

The event takes place March 1 at 1:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary of Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church, 49 Knox Drive, Lafayette. Admission is free and refreshments will be served.

Bobbie Dodson can be reached at [bobbiedodson@comcast.net](mailto:bobbiedodson@comcast.net).

## Between the Lines

### Picture Books Offer Ways to Help Children Deal with Anxiety

Susan Reckers, Orinda Books

More and more we read about heightened levels of anxiety among children. While adults can read self-help books to understand the issues, young kids can’t. Picture books can often serve as an age-appropriate source of self-help.

In picture books, children can find characters overcoming challenges similar to their own. These connections to fictional characters can be powerful, transformative even.

*Ben and the Scaredy-Dog* by Sarah Ellis (Pajama Press, \$17.95) addresses a fear that many of us remember vividly: dogs. Ellis and illustrator Kim LaFave perfectly capture the boy’s fear and his keen desire to overcome it. Ben’s journey to get past his dread of canines is realistic, sweet and humorous. The same duo has another helpful and winsome book starring Ben called *Ben Says Goodbye*, this one dealing with losing a friend who moves away.

Award-winning author and illustrator Francesca Sanna’s newest book, *Me and My Fear* (Flying Eye Books, \$17.95) deals with another common source of childhood anxiety: moving and starting at a new school. The main character has just moved

to this country, so there are cultural differences that make her feel misunderstood and alone, too.

Holly McGhee handles general overall anxiety in *Come With Me* (G. P. Putnam’s Sons, \$17.99). In reaction to the endless barrage of negative and scary news, McGhee has her main character consider what she can do to make the world a better place. Her parents model the idea of taking steps, literally. Illustrator Pascal Lemaitre shows the bi-racial family going out in the world, showing bravery and kindness one step at a time.

Mariam Gates has written several books for children about yoga and mindfulness. Her newest is called *Breathe With Me: Using Breath to Feel Strong, Calm, and Happy* (Sounds True, \$17.95). Paired with Sarah Jane Hinder’s very appealing illustrations, she gives terrific ideas for using breathing as an everyday tool that every kid can use.

She writes “You will breathe 25,000 times today and that is healthy for you. But do you know what else your breath can do? One deep breath in and one long breath out can make you feel better too!” A great reminder for all of us, regardless of age.

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BARBARA KOBSAR



Springtime is the yearly reminder of an exciting new season beginning at the farmers' market. Local farmers and vendors are gearing up for Saturday, April 6 opening day and will be offering some of the freshest and tastiest in-season produce available.

Strawberries and asparagus are stars of the produce stands. Look for other gems including an array of herbs (arugula, parsley, thyme, chives and mint), edible pod peas, fresh-pulled radishes, fava beans, salad greens, cabbage and perhaps a few early variety apricots. Stop by one of the artisanal foods stands for a bag of granola or bread, tub of hummus, jar of jam or bottle of honey.

The subtle tastes of spring onions and green garlic are ready to enjoy but only



BARBARA KOBSAR

Fresh-pulled radishes are among the spring favorites available at the Farmers' Market.

for a short time. They soon become larger and stronger tasting and ready for more hearty dishes.

Spring onions are very young onions harvested before the bulb develops, while scallions and green onions remain small and do not develop bulbs. Trim the roots off the end of the stalk and remove any damaged greens – the rest is completely edible.

Green garlic is harvested before heads of garlic form. This is a way for the farmer to thin the crop to give room for heads to mature and at the same time offer a delight of spring. It lends a pleasant mild garlic taste to omelets, risottos, dressings and garnishes. To prepare the green garlic, trim off roots and slice the white, light green and first few inches of the dark green leaves (as long as they are tender).

**Market reminders**

The Orinda market is open every Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Orinda Way in front of the Community Center and Rite Aid. Look for a special kid's activity every week.

Short on cash? Stop by the information booth and use your debit/credit card to purchase market bucks, which are accepted by all vendors.

Purchase reusable shopping bags or pick up some free recipes at the information booth. For more information visit the market website at [www.cccfm.org](http://www.cccfm.org) where you can also sign up for market specials sent to your phone.

**Spring frittata**

- 1 tablespoon butter
  - 2 tablespoons olive oil
  - 1 spring onion, trimmed and chopped
  - 1 green garlic, trimmed and chopped
  - One half-pound fresh asparagus, trimmed, cleaned and cut into 1-inch pieces
  - 6 eggs
  - 1 tablespoon water
  - 1/4 cup freshly grated Parmesan cheese
- Preheat oven to 325 degrees.  
 Melt butter and olive oil in an oven-safe,

8-inch skillet over medium heat. Add onion, garlic and asparagus. Cook and toss occasionally for about 5 minutes.

In a medium bowl, whisk together eggs and water. Pour into skillet, reduce heat to low, cover and cook 5 minutes. Transfer skillet to oven. Bake 10 to 15 minutes until eggs are set. Top with Parmesan cheese and place under broiler until cheese is lightly browned.

Serves 4.

*Barbara Kobsar sells her Cottage Kitchen jams and jellies at the JAM STAND at the Saturday Orinda market and the Sunday Walnut Creek market. She is also president of CCCFM (Contra Costa Certified Farmer's Market) Associations' Board of Directors.*

**EFO Benefit Concert at Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church**



CYNTHIA SMALLEY



N.D. KOSTER

Vocalist **Leslie Darwin O'Brien** and bassist **Marc Levine**, "The Musical Orindans," will perform a concert at Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church on March 9 at 7 p.m. to benefit the Educational Foundation of Orinda (EFO). O'Brien has taken the stage in Off-Broadway productions and at the Havana Jazz Festival, while Levine has played bass for Barry Manilow and Johnny Rivers, and alongside celebrated musicians such as Gerry Mulligan and Joe Sample. Tickets for the concert are \$20 for adults and \$10 for students and can be purchased at [www.orindaefo.org](http://www.orindaefo.org) or at the door. Audience members are invited to stay after the performance for a reception with the musicians.

◆ **CAR TIME** from page 6

The maintenance schedule will also suggest particular services depending on the mileage. Some of these interval-based suggestions are more significant, such as a transmission service, spark plug replacement or even a timing belt job. The cost of these items will be more significant so it is good to know in advance for scheduling and budgeting.

When you pass the 60,000 mile mark, you can expect to have some more significant services performed. It is important to be ready for it. Spending money maintaining and repairing your vehicle is a reality. These cars and SUVs are machines that will suffer from wear and tear. Ignoring maintenance will cost you more in the long run.

The basics, like changing your oil,

checking your tire pressure, and getting scheduled inspections and work done are like getting regular checkups at the doctor. They keep you healthy and give you, and the experts, a chance to catch anything serious before it becomes a major problem. That kind of attention can save thousands.

Who is responsible for paying attention to this maintenance schedule for your vehicle? It is the owner/driver of course. However, trustworthy repair facilities will help you figure out what you are due for and can help through the process.

Be a good consumer of automotive repair. Get your manual out and familiarize yourself with the future of your car's maintenance needs.

*John Vanek is the manager of Orinda Motors, Inc. He can be reached at [john@orindamotors.com](mailto:john@orindamotors.com).*

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PARKS / OCF

# Residents Challenged to Discover Lamorinda's Outdoor Gems

By SALLY HOGARTY  
Executive Editor

With the hope of encouraging hiking, biking or just walking, local park agencies have teamed up with the East Bay Regional Park District to offer an easy and fun way to discover the plethora of interconnecting trails and beautiful vistas of Lamorinda.

"We have so many wonderful trails throughout Orinda, Moraga and Lafayette, and we want to be sure people know about them and use them more, especially families. When a child learns to enjoy hiking at a young age, it's usually something they continue when they grow up," says Orinda Park and Rec Commissioner CZ Czerner. "It's a great way to relieve stress and enjoy the outdoors with friends and family."

To help people discover the opportunities available, which include trails maintained by each city, the East Bay Regional Park District, East Bay Municipal Utility Dis-

trict, and the Parks and Recreation Departments in Lamorinda have joined together for a Trail Challenge.

"Our trails are such a wonderful community asset, and we want to be sure they are enjoyed by everyone," says Moraga Parks and Rec Director Breyana Brandt.

The result of many months of planning, the challenge begins in May and continues through October. A kickoff is planned for May 4. "We'll have representatives on the various trails handing out guides and t-shirts," says Jeff Gillett, managing broker of Coldwell Banker, who is sponsoring the Trail Challenge.

Designed for all fitness levels, the free event is a self-guided program with participants completing the challenge by one of two ways: Go the Distance or Complete the Objectives. Go the Distance participants track the distance they hike on Lamorinda trails and submit a log showing a completed total of 26.2 miles.

Those choosing the Objective ap- [SEE TRAILS page 11]



SALLY HOGARTY

Working together on the Trail Challenge are (L-R) Orinda Parks and Rec Director **Todd Trimble**, Moraga's Parks and Rec Director **Breyana Brandt**, Orinda Park and Rec Commissioner **CZ Czerner**, Coldwell Banker Managing Broker **Jeff Gillett** and City of Lafayette Parks, Trails and Rec Director **Jonathan Katayanagi**.

## Orinda Community Foundation Celebrates Ninth Anniversary



DAVID DIERKS

On Feb. 7, board members from the Orinda Community Foundation celebrated their ninth anniversary by giving out more than \$64,000 to a host of local nonprofits including: Friends of Joaquin Moraga Adobe, Lamorinda Arts Council, The Orinda Association, Seniors Around Town, Orinda Parks and Rec and many more. Oh yes, and there was cake!

## Saint Patrick's Day Gala Fundraiser

St. Mary's College Guild will hold a Festive St. Patrick's Day, March 16, from 5 - 9 p.m., with a traditional corned beef and cabbage dinner, music and a silent auction. The Frank O'Connor Band will play a variety of Irish and American music with an exhibition of the finest Irish dancing by the Rohan Murphy Irish

Dance Academy. It all takes place at St. Mary's College Soda Center. Tickets are \$50 per person. All proceeds benefit SMC Scholarships.

Make checks payable to SMC Guild and send to 628 Augusta Drive, Moraga CA 94556. Call 925-388-0437 for more information.

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STUDENTS

◆ ROTARY from page 5

said Orinda Rotary President John Donnelly. The lights enabled local children



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Teenagers install LED lighting in a small Haitian town, with funding raised in part by the Rotary Club of Orinda.

to do school work after dark and helped fishermen find their way home, Donnelly says. Though Orinda members did not go to Haiti, they helped raised funds, he said.

The club, which has 60 members, also has given college scholarships to students at Miramonte High School and sponsored athletic competitions for elementary students since 1950.

In addition to the anniversary event, the club is holding a Trivia Bee March 22 at the Orinda Masonic Lodge. Sixteen teams will compete for a chance to win \$500 toward a favorite charity. The event helps Rotary raise funds to support local teachers.

The bee is put on by professional trivia buffs and promises to be a "mentally stimulating time," Donnelly says. Tickets are \$60 each or \$360 for a team of six.

The extent of the club's community involvement can be seen on its Facebook page which is loaded with photos. Rodney Lal is the page's administrator and also a board member.

A member for two years, Lal says the club is fun and exciting and a great way to meet people while making a difference locally and internationally.

The club is hosting the Mayor's State of the City Address Wednesday, March 20 at 12:30 p.m. in the Founders' Room of the Orinda Community Center. The meeting is open to the public and includes lunch at a cost of \$20.

For details and reservations about all Rotary activities, go to [www.orindarotary.org](http://www.orindarotary.org).

Simar Khanna can be reached at [editor@theorindanews.com](mailto:editor@theorindanews.com).

# Students Show Off Discoveries at Glorietta Science Fair March 20



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Glorietta Elementary will host its sixth annual science fair Wednesday, March 20 from 5:30 – 8 p.m. with interactive exhibits, educational presentations and student projects on display. Participants from grades TK-5 have been encouraged to conduct an experiment or survey, or to create an invention, within four categories of study: earth science, life science, physical science or chemistry. Dinner will be available for purchase at on-campus food trucks. For more information, go to <http://gl-orinda-ca.schoolloop.com/>.

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## SCHOOL CALENDAR

**MARCH**

- 4 **Del Rey Elementary School**, Minimum Day. Also March 5.  
**Miramonte High School**, 6 p.m. Sports Booster Meeting.  
**Sleepy Hollow Elementary School**, minimum day. Also March 5.
- 5 **Miramonte High School**, 7:30 p.m. Freshman Parent Group.
- 6 **Acalanes Union High School District**, Governing Board Meeting. Also March 20.
- 9 **Holden High School**, noon - 3 p.m. Alt Fair at the Walnut Creek Library, 1644 N Broadway, Walnut Creek.
- 11 **Del Rey Elementary School**, no school.  
**Sleepy Hollow Elementary School**, no school.  
**Wagner Ranch Elementary School**, no school.  
**Orinda Union School District**, 6 p.m. Board Meeting.
- 12 **Miramonte High School**, 7:30 p.m. Sophomore Parent Group.
- 13 **Miramonte High School**, 6:30 p.m. Career Night.
- 15 **Miramonte High School**, 7 p.m. Spring Musical, *Anything Goes*. Also March 16 and 22 and March 23 at 4 p.m.
- 16 **Holden High School**, 7 - 9 p.m. Fundraiser at Foreign Cinema restaurant, S.F.
- 19 **Miramonte High School**, 7:30 p.m. Junior Parent Group.
- 20 **Miramonte High School**, 9:30 a.m. Parents Club Meeting.
- 21 **Wagner Ranch Elementary School**, Site Council meeting.
- 23 **Del Rey Elementary School**, Annual Parent Party.
- 26 **Miramonte High School**, 7:30 p.m. Senior Parent Group Meeting.
- 27 **Acalanes Union High School District**, Band Concert.
- 29 **Miramonte High School**, Latin Convention @ Miramonte, Also March 30.
- 21 **Glorietta Elementary School**, Coordinating Council Meetings.  
**Sleepy Hollow Elementary School**, School Site Council Meeting.
- 22 **Sleepy Hollow Elementary School**, 5:30 p.m. Cast A, 7:30 p.m. Cast B, *Suessical Kids* at Sleepy Hollow Auditorium. Also March 23 noon Cast B, 2 p.m. Cast A.

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

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PALM SUNDAY: April 14, 8 and 10 a.m.  
TENEBRAE: April 17, 7 p.m.  
MAUNDY THURSDAY: April 18, 6 p.m. (supper and service)  
GOOD FRIDAY: April 19, noon and 7 p.m.  
GREAT VIGIL OF EASTER: April 20, 7 p.m. (champagne reception)  
EASTER SUNDAY: April 21, 7, 9 and 11 a.m.

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STUDENTS

Sleepy Hollow Students Bring *Seussical Kids* To Life



COURTESY OF SLEEPY HOLLOW SCHOOL

Fourth and fifth grade students at Sleepy Hollow Elementary, under the instruction of Lamorinda Performing Academy, have been hard at work reading *Seussical Kids* for the stage. Cast A and Cast B will take turns performing the whimsical musical on Friday, March 22 at 5:30 and 7:30 p.m., and Saturday, March 23 at 12 and 2 p.m. Based on the world of Dr. Seuss, the production follows Horton the Elephant on his quest to save the invisible world of the Whos and his newfound friend JoJo, a child who "thinks magical thinks." Tickets can be purchased at <https://www.showtix4u.com/events/2116>.

◆ TRAILS from page 9

proach must complete five of eight objectives listed in the guide. Objectives include identifying native wildflowers, cleaning up trash along trails or hiking to a creek. A limited number of 2019 commemorative pins will be awarded to those completing the challenge.

Participants can track their progress and their location by downloading the free All-Trails app on their smartphones. Identify various plants and trees by downloading the Plantsnap app (\$3.99).

To participate, download the guide and digitized trail maps at [www.lovelafayette.org/trails](http://www.lovelafayette.org/trails), [www.moragarec.com](http://www.moragarec.com) or [www.cityoforinda.org](http://www.cityoforinda.org). They are available in print at the Parks and Rec departments (Lafayette: 500 St. Mary's Road, 925-284-2232; Moraga Hacienda de las Flores: 21200 Donald Dr., 925-888-7045; Orinda Community Center: 28 Orinda Way, 925-254-5445) or at Coldwell Banker, 5 Moraga Way, 925-253-4676.

Sally Hogarty can be reached at [sally@theorindanews.com](mailto:sally@theorindanews.com).

Troop 237 Honors New Eagle Scouts

By LISA HOSKINS  
Contributing Writer

Five Miramonte High School students who belong to Boy Scout Troop 237 have achieved scouting's highest honor. Eagle Scouts Will Barber, Max Coons, Campbell Hoskins, Marcus O'Neill, and

recognized 250 Eagle Scouts. To become an Eagle, the candidate must earn a minimum of 21 merit badges, including 13 Eagle-required badges, demonstrate leadership and scout spirit, and successfully complete an Eagle service project benefiting the community.

When Barber heard that Miramonte High



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

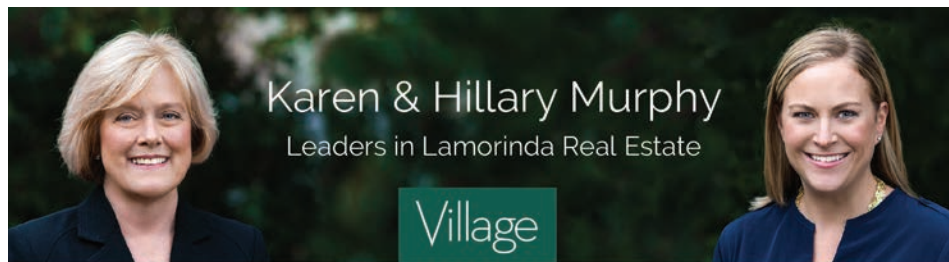
Orinda Troop 237 members Jackson Painter, Marcus O'Neill, Will Barber, Campbell Hoskins and Max Coons each completed a community service project to achieve the rank of Eagle Scout.

Jackson Painter celebrated their Eagle Court of Honor at the Orinda Community Church at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 24.

Troop 237 has been serving the Orinda community for nearly 70 years and has

School (MHS) administration was seeking to enhance outdoor seating for students, he decided to build two redwood benches and cement them into the ground. With the

[SEE SCOUTS page 19]



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## Everyday Orinda

Women, Words, Wisdom, Wine – That’s What Makes Book Clubs Divine

MIMI BOMMARITO



If I were asked to design a Coat of Arms for Orinda, I would propose we include the following:

- Assorted fresh veggies (to represent our Saturday Farmers’ Market);
- A matador (to represent our top-notch high school);
- Some beautiful golden hills (perhaps, but that might be hard to capture, and end up looking like potatoes);
- A high jump, with the bar set on the highest rung (because, you know, Orinda);
- And in the center of it all, a book.

Orindans love their books. And they love reading their books and discussing them with their book clubs.

This past month I’ve conducted some book club research, dropping in on several local gatherings, which, I must say, greatly enhanced my typically rather drab weeknight social lineup. Even though each book club I visited was delightfully and inherently unique, I easily found several

common threads:

**Participants are in it for the long haul (even though they didn’t necessarily know that in the beginning.)**

Most of the groups I met had been together for at least 10 years. When asked to be interviewed about her club (named Title Nine, after the original nine founding members and, of course, equality for female athletes), Pam Martin gushed, “You’ve asked us to talk about something we love; it’s like you asked about one of our children!”

Jennifer Coons, founder of another local book club, Ladies Night Out, moved to Truckee (Nevada County) but still drives back to Orinda every month with her husband so they can both attend their book club meetings. Frank Coons is part of a men’s club that has also been meeting faithfully for the past decade.

[SEE EVERYDAY page 18]

## Electronics Get a Time Out on Low-Tech Tuesdays at Orinda Academy

By LAURA TURNBULL  
Contributing writer

On one recent Tuesday morning in the study hall room, an Orinda Academy teacher began challenging students to one-minute elbow planks while a boisterous Jenga game played out on a nearby table.

The music teacher led an origami group, and the school’s learning specialist sat in a circle with students interested in tarot reading and horoscopes. Card and chess games formed quickly, and several students headed outside for basketball and ping pong. For an entire 20 minutes, nobody in the room looked at a smartphone.

Orinda Academy’s students and staff were introduced to a new weekly schedule component beginning second semester: Low-Tech Tuesdays. The administrative team and faculty created this once-a-week activity period, taking advantage of a morning break to encourage students to take a brief break from technology.

During the exercise, everyone in the school community is encouraged to set aside electronic devices – smartphones, laptops, tablets, and even smart watches – and take time to do something fun and low tech.

“It’s just 20 minutes, and we’re not forc-



LAURA TURNBULL

Orinda Academy students **Theo Jacobs** and **William Garman** enjoy a game of Jenga on a 20-minute break between classes.

ing anyone to comply,” says Sue Porter, head of school. “Low-Tech Tuesday is more of an invitation. We model low-tech behavior and offer lots of fun alternatives. We’re making this low-tech opportunity as inviting as we can. It’s like recess – for teenagers.”

“The laughter is the best part,” says Mollie Mowat, assistant head of school. “It’s loud, for sure, but it’s really great noise.”

[SEE ACADEMY page 17]

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## Fitness Tip of the Month

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STUDENTS

◆ CONNECT from page 1

from the community. Those responses came from ConnectOrinda's second event on Jan. 29 when more than 100 people filled the Library Auditorium and the Founders Auditorium, as well as from online surveys.

Attendees at the January event perused 19 potential projects: seven in the Theatre Square/Crossroads; seven in the area around BART; and five on the Village side of Orinda. The projects were a result of survey comments and staff/consultant input following the launch of ConnectOrinda in October, which built upon two broader planning processes that took place in 2017 with the Urban Land Institute and National Main Street Institute.

According to City of Orinda Associate Planner Adam Foster, the effort solely involves streetscape and transportation; it is not a land use plan, does not address zoning and will not affect the General Plan.

"We're primarily focused on projects that are in the right of way; property that the city already has control over," says Foster. "We have an emphasis on beautification projects and circulation projects that will make it easier for people to walk and drive and use other means of transportation."

Foster notes that some projects are small and doable in a short time while others require more planning and coordination with other entities, such as BART and Caltrans.

A major goal of ConnectOrinda involves gaining community consensus on the projects ultimately selected. To that end, the city designed a web-based application that allows the public to see projects and respond online at [www.cityoforinda.org/ConnectOrinda](http://www.cityoforinda.org/ConnectOrinda). Online responses, which continued until Feb. 15, were added to those received at the January meeting.

"The ConnectOrinda event is a wonderful opportunity for the community to come together and communicate a vision for

downtown improvements," says resident Sue Severson. "I'm still learning about all the projects, so I haven't chosen a favorite yet. One project that peaks my interest, though, is creating a pedestrian/bicycle connection between the Village and Crossroads areas."

A number of pedestrian/bicycle paths are proposed with one involving a direct street-level path (Project #12) connecting BART to the Village that would require either signaling the westbound Hwy 24 on/off ramps or eliminating them. Another version of the pathway (Project #9) would eliminate the descent to street level that occurs before going up again to the overpass as pedestrians head from BART to the Village side of Orinda.

"The idea is to elevate the pathway, so you don't dip down and then rise up again - to make it more of a gradual slope that is inviting to people of all ages," Foster says. "You could do a big concrete walkway or more of a floating, raised sidewalk that looks more like a bridge and would reduce costs and be more visually pleasing."

Several online comments, however, listed traffic noise as a major deterrent to any of the proposed paths.

Project #19, which looks at opening access to San Pablo Creek on the Village side, received the most favorable comments. Potential locations to allow creek access include Santa Maria Road adjacent to the Chevron station, the parking lot behind 23 Orinda Way and behind the Village Shopping Center. While some comments listed traffic noise from Camino Pablo as a factor, most felt creating creek access was long overdue.

"Opening up the creek on the Village side with access to Orinda Way and the possibility of restaurants with decks overlooking it is my favorite project," says Realtor Holly Hinkle, who said she appreciated having posters of each project on view and the opportunity to make comments following

Anything Goes On Stage At Miramonte This Month



SALLY HOGARTY

Miramonte students (L-R) **Gianna Capozzi, Tess Hornbeck, Dylan Smith, Isabelle Wirz and Anna Palamountain** rehearse a song from Cole Porter's *Anything Goes*, in preparation for performances on March 15, 16 and 22 at 7 p.m., and March 23 at 4 p.m. The beloved musical tells the story of Billy Crocker, a stowaway on a cruise ship making the trip from New York to London, and his amusing attempts to win the affection of heiress Hope Harcourt, with the help of nightclub singer Reno Sweeney. In addition to the title song, *Anything Goes* introduced audiences to Broadway standards like *You're The Top* and *I Get A Kick Out Of You*. Tickets are available at the web store at <https://miramonte.revtrak.net>.

the January presentation.

While very impressed with the presentation and the amount of good ideas, architect Rick Kattenberg notes that all the proposed projects need to be vetted. He questions the advisability of closing part of Vashell Way (small alley between LaPiazza and Coldwell Banker) near Moraga Way (Project #4). "This is the main access for Casa Orinda restaurant's suppliers, and while it would be nice to have outdoor dining and other events in the alley, it would be difficult for the restaurant and also for the people who live in apartments close to that

end," he says.

Another local architect, James Phillip Wright, who upgraded and remodeled a 19th Century building at 209 Moraga Way (known as the Yellow House) into a monument to energy conservation, was also impressed with the ConnectOrinda presentation. The lack of traffic mitigation proposals, however, worried him, he said.

"No one is addressing any mitigation of traffic nor the inaccessibility and congestion of BART," Wright says. "I've learned

[SEE CONNECT page 14]

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LIBRARY GALLERY

# Educational Foundation Exhibit Celebrates Orinda Student Artwork

By ELANA O'LOSKEY  
Staff Writer

Mark your calendars for the Educational Foundation of Orinda's (EFO) 13th Annual Arts Ambassadors Exhibit featuring a selection of 180 artworks and performances showcasing talent from all Orinda schools.

The exhibit runs from March 15-31 at the Orinda Library Gallery. A Celebration of the Arts Reception will be held March 20 from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. where participating students will receive an EFO Arts Ambassadors ribbon.

The event was organized by: Bene Streubel, EFO vice president of events; Lori

Brook, EFO visual and performing arts coordinator; David Wilson, art teacher at Del Rey Elementary School; and Wagner Ranch Elementary School art teacher Emma Taylor, Orinda Union School District (OUSD) aid to Wilson.

"The art being produced this year by our students is beautifully showing their thoughtful, diligent efforts, and we are very excited for the community to see it. I am certain that people will be moved," says Streubel.

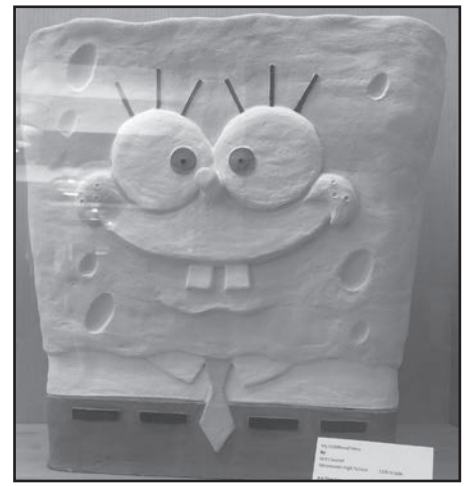
Gavin Kermod, art teacher at Miramonte High School says, "The Arts Ambassadors exhibit is a fun and interesting show because it combines all levels of student artwork from K through 12 in our community. It shows how rich of an experience students can have in the visual and performing arts in our schools. As a teacher, I greatly appreciate the continued support of the EFO and their contribution

to the student's art experience."

Related events at the March 20 reception include a performance from 4:30 – 5 p.m. by the Orinda Intermediate School (OIS) Jazz Band led by instrumental music teacher Greg Mazmanian. From 5 to 5:45 p.m. in Orinda Library Auditorium there will be welcome speeches from David Wilson, OUSD arts coordinator; David Schrag, OUSD director of curriculum; and Dr. Carolyn Seaton, OUSD superintendent. Speeches will be followed by performances by Miramonte Chamber singers, the OIS choir led by Christina Holling and elementary instrumental music students.

Because of the foundation's continued support of the arts in the community, Orinda is one of only a few California public schools able to provide musical and visual arts enrichment programs to every student. For more information about the EFO, see [www.orindaefo.org](http://www.orindaefo.org).

The foundation has sponsored all aspects of this exhibit since 2012. "The Lamorinda Arts Council (LAC) is delighted the EFO hosts this yearly event so everyone can enjoy the creative output from Orinda students," says Denise Nomura, co-curator of the gallery. See [www.lamorindaarts.org](http://www.lamorindaarts.org) for



ELANA O'LOSKEY  
Will Cassriel's sculpture entitled *My Childhood Hero* was displayed at a recent Arts Ambassadors exhibit.

more info about the council.

The gallery is at 26 Orinda Way. Hours are Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; and Sunday, 1 to 5 p.m. Call 925-254-2184 for more information or visit <http://ccclub.org/>.

Elana O'Loskey can be reached at [business.orinda@gmail.com](mailto:business.orinda@gmail.com).



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◆ **CONNECT** from page 13

a lot from studying Orinda's historical photographs that show traffic patterns before the freeway. From those, I've devised a traffic bypass that would move the BART

◆ **LETTERS** from page 4

building heights of 36 feet), and residential buildings (55 feet high/75 feet with density bonus) within a ¼-mile radius of a major transit stop such as BART.

In addition, any area identified by the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) as "jobs-rich" qualifies for "job-rich housing project" incentives in neighborhoods with high-performing public schools for people of all income levels, even in absence of high-quality transit.

SB-50 is weaponized by the Housing Accountability Act of 1982 that "prohibits a local agency from disapproving, or conditioning approval in a manner that renders infeasible, a housing development project for very low-, low- or moderate-income households or an emergency shelter unless the local agency makes specified written findings based upon substantial evidence in the record." Buildings not on the California Registry of Historic Places can be demolished. Where does this end?

SB-50 punishes each city for not being San Francisco. We are not San Francisco and SB-50 is not about choice. Give Wiener a call at (916) 651-4011 or (415) 557-1300 and share your thoughts with him.

– Kathleen Jenkins

and freeway traffic off of Camino Pablo and direct it to a high-rise parking structure in BART's current east parking lot or onto revised freeway ramps."

Wright's plan also calls for traffic circles rather than signals and a pedestrian/bicycle connection from Moraga Way to Orinda Way. He plans to make a presentation to various local leaders.

Following council and community input at the March 5 meeting, the consultant team will do more feasibility studies and, together with city staff, present detailed proposed projects that work well together at a May "ConnectOrinda Celebration."

To facilitate the implementation of approved projects, city staff already has entered into discussions with BART and Caltrans, and researched grant options for different projects.

"BART is looking into projects within a half-mile of their stations that assist people walking and biking to BART while Caltrans is in the process of developing a pedestrian master plan which covers the Bay Area that could work in Orinda's favor should it decide to pursue options that make it easier to get to BART," says Foster.

For a complete listing of proposed projects, go to [www.cityoforinda.org/ConnectOrinda](http://www.cityoforinda.org/ConnectOrinda). For questions, contact City of Orinda's Associate Planner Adam Foster at 925-726-1749 or via email at [afoster@cityoforinda.org](mailto:afoster@cityoforinda.org).


Sally Hogarty can be reached at [sally@theorindanews.com](mailto:sally@theorindanews.com).



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CALENDAR

ON THE CALENDAR

MARCH

- 1 **Orinda Library Art Gallery**, 16th Annual Visual Arts Competition, through March 14. View art from all high school students who live in or attend public, private or home schools in Lamorinda. 26 Orinda Way. See <http://ccclib.org> for hours.  
**First Friday Forum**, 1:30 p.m. Jim Marggraff presents “Artificial Intelligence, Augmented Reality, Virtual Reality,” in the Sanctuary of Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church, 49 Knox Drive, Lafayette. See article p. 7.
  - 4 **Mindful Littles**, 3:30 p.m. Kindness Crafternoon at I Heart Art, 15 Vivian Dr., Pleasant Hill, Register at: <https://mindfullittles.org/>.
  - 6 **Orinda Books**, 11:30 a.m. Chef Charlie presents “Springtime in Paris” cooking demonstration of classic Parisian dishes. 10 percent off any cookbook. Limited seating, \$35 per person.\*
  - 7 **Orinda Books**, 10 a.m. Story Time with Cathy G. Join Cathy for a lively hour of books and fun for kids of all ages. Also, March 14, 21 and 28.\*  
**Taste of the World Market**, 5 p.m. Weekly food truck event features a different mix of trucks and entertainment. To see which food trucks will be present visit [www.tasteoftheworldmarket.com/calendar-agenda-style/](http://www.tasteoftheworldmarket.com/calendar-agenda-style/). Also, March 14, 21, and 28. See box p. 1.
  - 8 **International Film Showcase**, *Dark Figure Of Crime*. For more information go to [www.internationalshowcase.org](http://www.internationalshowcase.org).
  - 9 **Mindful Littles**, 10:30 a.m. Kindness Book Club. Read a book on a special kindness theme; practice heart-centered movements and mindfulness; do a fun creative art project. Orinda Library (Garden Room), 26 Orinda Way. Register at <https://mindfullittles.org/>.  
**Orinda Books**, 5 p.m. Mark Synnott discusses his new book, *The Impossible Climb: Alex Honnold, El Capitan, and the Climbing Life*.\*  
**Cal Shakes** “Guiding Stars” Dinner and Awards Ceremony, 6 p.m. at the Claremont Club & Spa, Berkeley. Tickets begin at \$350 and need to be reserved by March 7. 510-899-4907 or email [events@calshakes.org](mailto:events@calshakes.org) or visit [CalShakes.org](http://CalShakes.org) to purchase. See article p. 2.  
**Educational Foundation of Orinda (EFO)**, 7 p.m. benefit concert at Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church (433 Moraga Way in Orinda) with Marc Levine and Leslie Darwin O’Brien. Tickets \$20 adult, \$10 kids. See box p. 8.
  - 10 **Orinda Books**, 6 p.m. Sunday Night Workout: A Generative Writing Class with Janine de Boisblanc. Good for beginners and experienced writers. All genres.(5 weeks). To register: [janine@diablowriters.org](mailto:janine@diablowriters.org) or 925-314-5598. For more information, visit [diablowriters.org](http://diablowriters.org).\*
  - 11 **Orinda Books**, 2 p.m. The Poetry Circle will discuss, *Citizen: An American Lyric* by Claudia Rankine. They meet monthly at Orinda Books and welcome anyone interested in poetry.\*
  - 13 **Orinda Books**, 6 p.m. Robert Murillo is reading from his second Mike Lundy novel, *The Make-Up Room*. See article p. 19.\*  
**Orinda Theatre**, 6:30 p.m. Free Movie Night presents *The Bodyguard* [lamorindatheatres.com](http://lamorindatheatres.com).
  - 14 **Live At The Orinda**, 7 p.m. Broadway and TV star Telly Leung (*Aladdin*, *Wicked*, *Allergiance*, *GLEE*), go to [lamorindatheatres.com](http://lamorindatheatres.com) for tickets.
  - 16 **Spectacular Special Needs (SEED)**, 2 p.m. A birthday party-style event with cake and entertainment, and if your child has had a recent birthday, he or she will be able to pick out a prize from the treasure chest. No RSVP needed.  
**Barb & Holly’s 9th Annual Clothes Swap**, 10:30 a.m. drop off/happy hour: March 15 from 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. Swap, shop, sell and support several great causes including Wardrobe for Opportunity. St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church, 66 Saint Stephens Dr., Orinda.  
**Orinda Rotary** 6 p.m. 70th Anniversary Celebration, Featuring: The White Crane Lion Dancers, Miramonte Jazz Band, dinner, featured speakers and mystery guest; dancing to the Blue Moon Bandits featuring Peter Margen. Orinda Community Center, 28 Orinda Way.
  - 19 **Orinda Books**, 3 p.m. The World Affairs Book Group will discuss *Blood And Silk: Power and Conflict in Modern Southeast Asia*, by Michael Vatikiotis. Led by Kate Pope.\*
  - 20 **Orinda Books**, 10:30 a.m. Write your story with Andrea Firth at her Moraga writing studio. Memoir and personal essay, good for beginners. (6 weeks). To register: [andrea@diablowriters.org](mailto:andrea@diablowriters.org). For more information visit [diablowriters.org](http://diablowriters.org).\*
  - Orinda Rotary**, 12:30 p.m. State of the City Address lunch, Founders’ Room, Orinda Community Center. \$20. For information/reservations visit [www.orindartotary.org](http://www.orindartotary.org)
  - Orinda Library Art Gallery** 4:30 p.m. Educational Foundation of Orinda Arts Ambassadors student artist reception. Speakers from OUSD and student musical entertainment. Exhibit runs from March 15 through 31 See article p. 14.
  - 22 **Orinda Rotary Club Trivia Bee**, 5 p.m. Orinda Masonic Lodge. Create or sponsor a team of six people for \$360. Winning team earns a \$500 prize for their favorite non-profit. Includes dinner. Contact Sylvia Jorgensen at 510-224-8548.  
**Women of Spirit Gathering**, 7 p.m. Women seeking connection, shared learning and growth with others of diverse faith. Inspiring speakers, discussion groups; [www.facebook.com/womenofspiritlamorinda](http://www.facebook.com/womenofspiritlamorinda).
  - 23 **Moraga Art Gallery** 5 p.m. A Springtime Tribute to Trees, reception for guest artist Duke Herrero, woodworker. 522 Center St., Moraga. Through June 1.  
**Pacific Chamber Orchestra**, 7:30 p.m. Lawrence Kohl conducts Schubert’s Octet, *Ravel’s Introduction and Allegro*, and Francaix’s *Dixtuor*. Community Hall, Lafayette Library, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. Tickets at [www.pacificchamberorchestra.org](http://www.pacificchamberorchestra.org).
  - 27 **Orinda Parks and Recreation**, 9 a.m. Upcoming day trip to Conservatory of Flowers, San Francisco, Barcode: 1506; Fees: \$45. Email: [orindaparksrec@cityoforinda.org](mailto:orindaparksrec@cityoforinda.org)
  - 29 **Orinda Books**, 11:30 a.m. Literary Luncheon: Liam Callanan presents *Paris by the Book*. \$12 ticket includes luncheon.\*
  - 31 **St. Mary’s College**, 3 p.m. pianist Bobby Mitchell performs at the Saint Mary’s College Chapel, [www.stmarys-ca.edu/bobbymitchell](http://www.stmarys-ca.edu/bobbymitchell). See article this page.
- \* **Orinda Books** is at 276 Village Square, Orinda, [info@orindabooks.com](mailto:info@orindabooks.com), 925-254-7606.

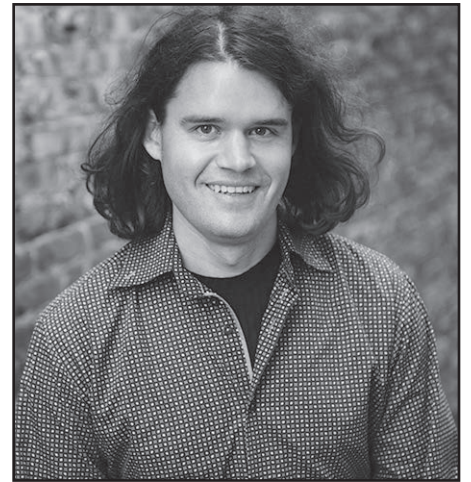
AT THE LIBRARY

All events are free unless otherwise specified. For more information, call 925-254-2184 or visit [www.ccclib.org/locations/Orinda.html](http://www.ccclib.org/locations/Orinda.html).

- 2 **Saturday Paws to Read**. 3 p.m. Drop in to read to a furry listener. Geared for grades K through 5. Younger kids can listen to a story read by a favorite grown-up. Sponsored by the Friends of the Orinda Library. Also March 16, 30.
- 4 **Maker Monday**, 2:30 p.m. Whether it’s crafts, Legos or Minecraft, something is always happening on Mondays. Also March 18, 25.
- 5 **Toddler Storytime**. 10 and 10:30 a.m. Stories and songs for 1-3 year-olds and their caregivers.

World Class Pianist at Saint Mary’s

By SALLY HOGARTY  
Executive Editor



JIYANG CHEN

Pianist **Bobby Mitchell** breathes new life into classical repertoire with his talent for improvisation and live performance.

Lamorinda comes into its own with Broadway stars appearing in concert at the Orinda Theatre, renowned tribute bands at Lafayette’s Town Hall Theatre and international award-winning musicians performing in Moraga.

One such musician is pianist Bobby Mitchell. Known for his expertise in performing both standard classical repertoire of centuries past and improvising new music, Mitchell is scheduled to perform at the Saint Mary’s College Chapel on March 31 at 3 p.m. A reception with the artist is set to follow at 5 p.m.

[SEE MITCHELL page 16]

- Please do not attend more than one Toddler Storytime a week. Also March 6, 12, 13, 19, 20.
- Baby Storytime**. 11:30 a.m. Lapsit storytime for infants to pre-walkers (0 to about 18 months) and their caregivers. Early literacy advice and infant playtime immediately afterwards. Families with older siblings are welcome to attend Toddler Storytime. Also March 6, 12, 13, 19, 20.
- Orinda Writers Group**, 6:30 p.m. Meet with a friendly group of beginning writers. Share two pages of your writing (any genre) and get feedback from the group. Also March 19.
- 6 **Women in STEM**, 6:30 p.m. Meet two scientists: Dr. Margaret Race (astrobiology) and Dr. Julita Baker (food choice researcher) as they talk about their careers, motivations and inspirations.
- 7 **Computer Help**, 1 and 2 p.m. Receive help on computer matters from a knowledgeable volunteer. Registration required. Focus on beginning users. Sign up online or call the library. Also March 14, 21, 28.
- ESL Conversation Group**, 1 p.m. Volunteer ESL teachers lead group discussions with ESL learners. Free and open to all. Also March 14, 21, 28.
- 11 **Dinosaurs Rock!** 1 p.m. An interactive presentation and museum-quality display, with life-size fossils and accurate representations. Children can also participate in a fossil dig. A Maker Monday Special. Sponsored by the Friends of the Orinda Library. Geared for kids 5 - 11.
- 12 **Courageous Conversations**, 4 p.m. About Racial Harm and Healing: A Restorative Approach. In this workshop for teens and adults, learn about racial harms, micro-aggressions, and restorative responses. Sponsored by the Friends of the Orinda Library.
- 14 **Asian Art Museum Docent Lecture**, 11 a.m. Sponsored by the Friends of the Orinda Library.  
**Kindergarten Countdown**, 3 p.m. Starting kindergarten or TK next fall? Children and their caregiver can explore kindergarten-ready skills. Different skills practiced at each workshop. Also March 21, 28. No registration needed.
- 15 **Mystery Book Club**, 3 p.m. Join us to discuss *Manitou Canyon* by William Kent Krueger.
- 21 **Creative Writing 101**, 5:30 p.m. The first of a 6-week course on the introduction to storytelling, presented by the University of San Francisco MFA Writing Program.
- 26 **Toddler Stay & Play**, 10 a.m. Gentle play in the Gallery Room. Also March 27.  
**Baby Stay & Play**, 11:30 a.m. Play with appropriate toys in the Gallery Room. Also March 27.
- 27 **Koto Music**, 6:30 p.m. Shirley Kazuo Miyamoto Wong and Brian Mitsuhiro Wong play music composed by the headmasters of the Chikushi Kai and Sawai Soukyokuin schools. Sponsored by the Friends of the Orinda Library.
- 28 **Contra Costa Tale Spinners**. 7 p.m. Local storytellers and guest speaker with tales geared toward grown-ups.

CLUB MEETINGS

- American Association of University Women (AAUW)**. General meetings third Tuesday, <http://oml-ca.aauw.net> or email Marty Schimbor at [mgschimbor@comcast.net](mailto:mgschimbor@comcast.net). Orinda Community Church, 10 Irwin Way.
- Diablo Star Chapter #214**, Order of the Eastern Star. Second Monday, 7:30 p.m. 9 Altarinda Road, Orinda Masonic Center, Karen Seaborn, 925-689-0995.
- Friends of the Joaquin Moraga Adobe**. Third Monday, 7:30 p.m., Garden Room, Orinda Library, [www.moragaadobe.org](http://www.moragaadobe.org).
- Friends of the Orinda Creeks**. Fourth Wednesday, 5 p.m., May Room, Orinda Library, 510-919-4765.
- 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 a.m., Orinda City Hall, Sarge Littlehale Room, 925-687-8844, ext. 227.
- Lamorinda Meditation Community**. Mondays and Thursdays, 10:30 a.m., Career Wisdom’s Institute, 1036 Country Club Drive, Moraga. All levels and philosophies welcome. \$5 dona-

[SEE CALENDAR page 16]



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## CONTINUATIONS

## ◆ GALA from page 1

of Wagner Ranch Nature Area, the Orinda Garden Club and Lamorinda Village.

"I enjoy being involved in our community and beyond, especially helping children keep their sense of wonder alive through outdoor adventures, and by developing their gifts through piano teaching," says Carole. "I receive more than I give. Love is something when you give it away, you end up having more."

Despite their deep roots in Orinda, the couple never lost their global view on life. They are active in the Interfaith Team of the Lafayette Orinda Presbyterian Church, Temple Isaiah and the San Ramon Mosque. The team develops projects and educational programs to encourage interfaith communication and cross-cultural relationships.

Through their church, the couple has organized service trips for teenagers to help underserved communities, including those outside of the United States. Andy says the experiences are life-changing for the children. "The kids in Orinda don't have a real appreciation of what poverty looks like up close," he says.

But it is Orinda that has been home for 51 years.

Says Andy, "Building community here keeps me involved in practical projects to help others and develops new friendships. I join with Mister Rogers, who asked, 'Won't you be my neighbor?'"

◆ **Bill Hudson, William Penn Mott, Jr. Environmental Award**

When he moved to Orinda in 1984, Hudson says he was drawn to the natural history and resources and wanted to learn more about it. One of the first things he learned about was the expansive Wilder development planned for the southern end of the city. He became active in efforts to successfully reduce the size of the development and preserve open space.

When his son, Parke, attended Sleepy Hollow Elementary School, Hudson said he became aware that the school district was going to put a maintenance yard at what is now the Wagner Ranch Nature Area. In 2009, he went to a meeting to voice his opposition and later ended up serving on the board of directors. He was instrumental in helping to secure funding to keep programs running. He remains active with the organization, in particular looking at

ways to make it financially self-supporting while integrating the site more into school programs.

And one of those ways involved spitting pits.

Hudson was the brains behind the "pit spit" contest that takes place at the annual Olive Festival. Contestants compete to see who can spit their pit the farthest, and who can accurately hit cardboard targets.

"People have a lot of fun with that," says Hudson who takes it upon himself to do a lot of the heavy lifting to organize the Olive and Wildlife festivals that benefit the nature area.

Hudson, who currently serves on the board of directors of the Golden Gate Audubon Society, says his proudest accomplishment is keeping the Wagner Ranch Nature Area integrated in school curriculum and available to children.

"I'm honored, but I want to make it very clear that I'm proud to work with the people that I do. They are amazing. I'm just one of them," he says.

◆ **Bobbie Landers, Volunteer Award**

Landers moved to Orinda in 1961 after someone that her late-husband Carl knew said it was a good place to live. She joined a club for newcomers, found herself hired by the Orinda Association and before long became involved in the effort to incorporate.

Once Orinda incorporated, it needed a city council – and a committee emerged to determine candidates.

"At the committee, everyone was saying it should be Dick or Joe... guy after guy. I went home and said to my husband, 'All they talk about are guys? Why don't we have women?' He said, 'Why don't you run?'"

She did, and was the lone woman on Orinda's inaugural City Council in 1985.

Since then, Landers has devoted her entire life to volunteering in Orinda and being involved in countless organizations, efforts and events. Her latest focuses on raising \$1 million for the acquisition of Joaquin Moraga Adobe, the oldest surviving building in Contra Costa County and a California State Historic Landmark. Landers calls it "Orinda's treasure."

She serves on the Board of Directors of the Friends of Joaquin Moraga Adobe, an organization she helped found.

She also remains active in Orinda's sister-city program with Tabor, a city in the

just us."

"High school students use tech all day long," explains science and math teacher Vicky Guarracino. "We restrict it in classrooms, but from what we've observed, the addiction is real. It's just nice to offer kids a social interaction opportunity that doesn't involve staring at a screen."

*Laura Turnbull is director of development & communications and an English teacher at Orinda Academy.*

Czech Republic. Landers helped establish the relationship.

To explain all her years of service, Landers says simply, "That's what I do."

"It's kind of like eating peanuts. You can't stop with just one. If we do this, we have to do that. If we do that, we should do this other thing. That's what happens."

◆ **Andy Radlow, Volunteer Award**

For the past five years Radlow has been chair of the 4th of July Parade, a marathon of an effort requiring months of planning and coordinating. This year, because of work demands, Radlow won't be the parade chair. But he has left his mark.

Under his watch, the team of volunteers for the event has grown from 15 to more than 100. And the budget has increased threefold. Radlow says this was accomplished the old-fashioned way, spending countless hours knocking on doors to get people to donate their time and money.

So why did he take on such a huge commitment?

Bagpipers.

"Back in 2012, I was at the Orinda Parade with my family and loved it, but was disappointed that there were no bagpipers," he recalled. "I joined the Parade Committee in 2013 and lobbied diligently for bagpipers that year but was shot down by Bobbie

Landers who said that bagpipers reminded her of a memorial dirge."

So he got involved with the planning and in 2014 took over as parade chairman. The bagpipers were added.

The awards dinner to honor these dedicated volunteers takes place March 10 at 6 p.m. at the Orinda Country Club, 315 Camino Sobrante. Tickets are \$65. To purchase tickets, go to <http://orindaassociation.org/>.

*Simar Khanna can be reached at editor@theorindanews.com.*

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## ◆ ACADEMY from page 12

Kids are de-stressing and they don't even know it."

Junior Maddie agrees. "I feel like I can put my phone away without any issues, probably more than most people my age. But it's really nice just to have this time when there are lots of other things for everyone to do without our phones. We're actually making eye contact and talking to each other -- no YouTube or SnapChat,

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CONTINUATIONS

◆ EVERYDAY from page 12

**Book club discussions are way more fun than English class, because:**

- There are no right or wrong answers;
- Your opinion actually matters;
- Evening meetings often involve adult beverages;
- Summer beach reads occasionally pass for respectable, or at least therapeutic, literature;
- Joy-zapping terms like “thematic narrative contextualization” are banned, even if you went to Stanford.

Members rarely are penalized for failing to finish a book, unless you count spoiler discussions, which are universally recognized as self-inflicted punishment.

**Book club bonds run deep**

“My book club is like my family,” says Laura Traxler. “As a result of our bonding, our husbands and children also became friends.”

Traxler’s group, which has been meeting regularly for more than 10 years, hosts a festive, holiday-themed dinner party dis-

ussion every December. When the children were young, the group instituted a separate venue for the dads to decorate gingerbread houses with the kids so the moms could enjoy a celebratory evening.

Traxler’s group also rallied to carry her through an unexpected and severe health crisis in 2014. Traxler says that in addition to analyzing books, the tightly-knit group has pored over almost every life issue that has crossed its path – raising kids, managing careers and adjusting to empty-nesting, among others.

“It is also a joy to gather together with intelligent women and discuss things *besides* raising kids or the latest drama at school,” she says. Traxler defined a subtle irony that undoubtedly contributes to the magnetism and sustainability of book clubs: “You actually learn so much more about a person by discussing books than you ever would just by regular conversation.”

**Quality over quantity is a delicate balance, but crucial**

And when I say quality, I don’t mean find someone with a vacation home in Napa.



MIMI BOMMARITO

(L-R) Yosh Neugebauer, Robin Alvarado, Joan Pinto, Pam Martin and Jenny Hawkins, all members of the Title Nine book club, circle around some of their favorite reads. See more photos of other book club members at [www.TheOrindaNews.com](http://www.TheOrindaNews.com).

By quality, I mean dedicated: Dedicated to reading the book and having somewhat faithful attendance.

Most groups have about 10 members. Although there is a certain danger in setting strict membership limits, which can be perceived as being exclusive or clique-y, it can be cumbersome when a book club grows too big. People stop showing up when they feel like they won’t be missed.

Joan Pinto of Title Nine says, “Our meetings always include dinner, so we would tend to have a very compelling reason if we needed to miss.”

Numeric balance is key: One wants enough members so that there is vibrant discussion and a variety of opinions, but not so many that time runs out before everyone has had a chance to share, or members are inadvertently left off email chains because no one can accurately keep track of the complete roster.

**Someone should assume the role of kindergarten teacher**

All the clubs I visited operate a bit differently, but with the same premise. Some, like the Del Rey Dames, have a policy of “If you host, you lead.” Some determine the book and the date of the next meeting as they go along, while others stake out a schedule at the beginning of a new school year.

Some meet in the summer, most do not. Some have one member, usually a personality who gravitates to structure and organization, to lead the literary cavalry, as is the case with Ladies Night Out. “If we behave well, we get privileges,” member Karen Watson joked.

In my own book club, the Read Hot Mamas, we typically depend on Dr. Sarah Rahman to channel our exuberant socializing into a semblance of a meaningful discussion. In her absence, our meetings

unfold like a sophomore left in charge of a household for the weekend. But we try.

Some clubs enjoy additional outings and events besides group discussions. After reading *The Maltese Falcon* by Dashiell Hammett, Traxler’s club rented transportation so the group could visit all the San Francisco sites mentioned in the novel, and may or may not have imbibed at each stop.

Ladies Night Out has attended author readings together, taken a field trip to Palo Alto after reading Steve Jobs’ biography, collected and donated books for children, camped together and hiked a portion of the Pacific Coast Trail after reading *Wild* by Cheryl Strayed.

**Sold! Where do I sign up?**

Jump in with a visit to Orinda Books at 276 Village Square, or visit their website, [orindabooks.com](http://orindabooks.com) and click on “Book Clubs.” Owner Maria Roden provides a variety of options for the would-be book clubber, who can choose from the Second Wednesday Book Group, Maria’s Book Club, Random Readers, the World Affairs Book Club, the Sirs Book Club or join their Poetry Circle. Detailed information about meeting times and subject matter can be found on the website.

Orinda Books also offers a comfortable space that can be used by existing book groups. There is no charge to use the space, but the store requests the books be purchased there and meetings be logged on their calendar ahead of time.

All registered local book clubs receive a 10 percent discount. To register, call 925-254-7606 and let them know when you are making a book club selection.

Mimi Bommarito can be reached at [mimi.bommarito@theorindanews.com](mailto:mimi.bommarito@theorindanews.com).

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Chamber Changes



CINDY POWELL

Outgoing Chamber of Commerce President **Roy Hodgkinson** welcomes new President **TJ D'Amato** at a recent board meeting.

◆ SCOUTS from page 11

help of fellow Troop 237 scouts, Barber designed, built and placed the benches.

School officials say the benches provide a nice, peaceful place to sit and relax, now and for many years to come. Will is the son of Ben and Maggie Barber of Orinda.

Coon's project benefitted Glorietta Elementary School where he attended kindergarten to fifth grade. Coons, along with other 237 Scouts, created an area for kids who attend the before/after school program to access a new storage shed by building a retaining wall and digging a new pathway to the shed.

He also upgraded the existing pathway from school to the upper parking lot and planted native plants along the walkway which he has been weeding and watering since his project was completed last summer. Max is the son of John and Cathryn Coons of Orinda.

Hoskins and fellow Scouts built a large wooden sign for Miramonte Baseball. Hoskins said he developed his love for baseball at age 4 and was honored to find a project benefitting something meaning-

ful to him. As an MHS baseball player, Hoskins noticed it was unclear how to enter the baseball field, which is off to the side of the main football/track area.

The sign is 9 feet wide, 12 feet high, set 4 feet deep and features est. 1955 and the M logo. Hoskins said he hopes his project pays homage to the 65-year tradition of Mats Baseball and his passion for the sport. Campbell is the son of Dan and Lisa Hoskins of Orinda.

O'Neill's Eagle Project is designed to be sustainable within Troop 237. O'Neill and his fellow scouts built a mobile bookshelf for Wilson Elementary school in Richmond for students who want to read at home. The bookshelf is a "loaning library" the students may bring a book to donate and choose a book for home. In addition, O'Neill and his fellow Scouts and classmates donated more than 1,000 books. He said he hopes to continue leading one drive per year through Troop 237 to keep the shelf stocked. Marcus is the son of Tom and Rene O'Neil.

The Garden of Learning at St. Perpetua Catholic School in Lafayette is a treasured resource built to enhance classroom curriculum by fostering a sense of wonder for all things in nature. While a student at St. Perpetua, Painter said he frequently noticed the garden's fence was battered, allowing predatory animals to wreak havoc on the garden and pose a safety issue for students during recess. With a team of scouts, St. Perpetua students, church members, and friends, Painter removed the existing fence and built a 115-foot-long, 8-foot high fence that now protects the produce, farm animals and students. Jackson is the son of Tyler and Sonia Painter of Orinda.

Author Murillo's *The Make-Up Room* Steps into Hollywood's Golden Era

By ELANA O'LOSKEY  
Staff Writer

Take a trip to Hollywood's Golden Era – that's where you'll find Mike Lundy and the bevy of Hollywood beauties he always seems to have on his arm. Longtime Orinda resident Bob Murillo describes Lundy, his protagonist, as a cross-time traveler. This way Murillo gets to spend time – now that he's retired – between 2014 and 1941.

Perhaps the word retired can't be used to describe Murillo. At 75 he was often up at 5 a.m. during the five years it took to write his latest Mike Lundy page-turner.

He counts author Jack Finney (1911 – 1995) as a big influence. Finney's books were categorized as a combination of noir fiction, science fiction and thrillers. But why time travel? When Murillo was 10 or 11 years old he discovered Finney's *The Body Snatchers* and *Time and Again*. Wikipedia lists nine films based on books Finney authored. Traveling in time to the past was something Finney explored; Murillo took to it as well.

Part historical novel and part mystery, Murillo's *The Make-Up Room* centers around a letter written in 2014 that must be delivered to someone in 1941. There are some recurring characters from Murillo's earlier Lundy novel, *The Vanity*. Connie, Mike's girlfriend is one, and neighbors Lorraine and Jay Johnston complete the list of people he is closest to.

Murillo will read from *The Make Up*



ELANA O'LOSKEY

**Robert Murillo** stands with his time-travel mystery *The Make-up Room* in front of Orinda Books, where he'll be reading from his work on March 13.

*Room* on March 13 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at Orinda Books where light refreshments will be served. Travel with him back to 1941 where the as-yet undiscovered Veronica Lake and her sidekick Linda Darnell figure in some fancy but shady footwork.

Orinda Books is at 276 Village Square, Orinda. Call 925-254-7606 or go to [www.orindabooks.com](http://www.orindabooks.com).

Elana O'Loskey can be reached at [business.orinda@gmail.com](mailto:business.orinda@gmail.com).

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BUSINESS BUZZ

## Business Buzz Putting a Personal Face on Local Business

Elana O’Loskey



### Monti Kids Founder and CEO Zahra Kassam is the First Orinda Business on Shark Tank.

As to qualifying for *Shark Tank*, Kassam says, “Forty thousand people try out for *Shark Tank* every season; 88 were chosen to pitch this season. It’s pretty amazing that Monti Kids got in. Almost 4 million people watch *Shark Tank*. It was the most stressful thing I’ve ever done in my life. Receiving my \$200,000 ask was an incredible experience. Kevin O’Leary has been a

great partner.”

Kassam, who has a master’s degree from the Harvard School of Education, is also an internationally certified Montessori teacher. She says she is on a mission to educate parents that 85 percent of the brain develops before age three. The Montessori method is over 100 years old and can be described as developmental education.

There’s been quite a media storm since *Shark Tank*. Kassam and Monti Kids have been featured on *Fox News*, *SF Channel Two’s Morning on 2 Segment* and other local and national media. Their website is getting a workout. But Kassam remains resolute in encouraging parents to ask one question: “How can I help my child develop mentally in the best possible way?” Monti Kids was created as the answer to that question when Kassam’s first child was born. There were no programs addressing this 0-to-3 year old window for brain development, she says.

Kassam and her team of Montessori educators and toy designers spent three years before launching Monti Kids in March 2017. They opened their Orinda Theatre Square offices in July 2018, have 10 employees, and are growing fast. Because all employees live in the East Bay, Orinda was chosen for its central location and because it is beautiful, safe and family friendly, she says.

According to studies done by the Center on the Developing Child at Harvard Uni-



ELANA O’LOSKEY

Monti Kids Founder and CEO **Zahra Kassam** is bringing the Montessori philosophy into the home.



ELANA O’LOSKEY

(L-R) Shelby’s owners **Carlos Rangel** and Chef **Arno Kober** are rolling out a new menu at their Theatre Square restaurant. This and other improvements are to be completed by March 31.

versity, the environment in which brain development happens and age-appropriate stimuli help maximize a child’s potential and lays the best foundation for future development. Monti Kids was founded with the mission of helping parents support their baby during these critical years of development, Kassam said.

Program Levels 1-8 consist of Montessori toy curriculum delivered every three months. The subscription service includes guides, short videos and articles for parents and those who care for babies on how to introduce and use the materials. Toys are manufactured using sustainably forested wood, non-toxic paint and 100 percent recyclable packaging. Curriculum purchase includes access to online classes, one-on-one support and a private community moderated by vetted child development experts. A re-use program is in place for used toys.

When not working, Kassam spends time with her family, especially with her sons, ages 6 and 1.

To learn more, go to [www.montikids.com](http://www.montikids.com), or follow on social media or email them at [hello@montikids.com](mailto:hello@montikids.com).

### Shelbys Rolls Out Healthy Menu Options, New Bar Area, Cocktail Menu and Happy Hour Specials.

Shelbys has been open for 24 years – no small accomplishment – but owners Carlos Rangel and Chef Arno Kober keep things up to date.

Their new menu items follow the “eat local, eat what’s in season” line of thinking. Some dishes won’t change such as their Chinese chicken salad, chicken mango

salad and beef goulash. New items include gluten-free pasta, veggie burgers including a portabello mushroom burger, and gluten-free bread, along with grass-fed beef, organic chicken, sustainably farmed fish and fresh seasonal vegetables. Their breakfast menu gets an update as well – healthier choices all round.

Rangel says he is excited to welcome patrons to the new bar with a cocktail menu and happy hour specials. The bar will be toward the right as you walk in where the cash register is now located.

Rangel and Kober have supported a variety of local events such as the Orinda Baseball Association and Orinda Intermediate School as well as Lamorinda Moms Club. “The community support goes both ways – the community has been really supportive of us and we give back whenever we can. We are very thankful and ask patrons to come in and try our new menus, check out the bar and try a specialty cocktail,” says Rangel.

To maintain sanity and a balanced life, Rangel says he focuses on exercise including running, obstacle races and Spartan races. When away from the restaurant Kober can be found with a paintbrush covering a canvas with color.

Shelbys is at 2 Theatre Square, No. 152, Orinda. 925-254-9687; [www.shelbyseatbetter.com](http://www.shelbyseatbetter.com). Hours are Monday to Friday 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. for lunch; 5 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. for dinner (until 9 p.m. Friday and Saturday); 10:30 a.m. Saturday and Sunday for brunch.

Elana O’Loskey can be reached at [business.orinda@gmail.com](mailto:business.orinda@gmail.com).

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**March 1 - Adult Softball League Registration Opens**  
**March 5 - Wisdom Workshop - Veteran's Burial Benefit Workshop; OCC; 10:30am - 12:00pm; FREE, Register Now!**  
**March. 10 - Winery Excursion: An Afternoon at a Moraga Winery; Barcode 1194; 1pm-3pm; \$44R/\$50.60NR; Ages 21 and up**  
**March. 10 - Daylight Savings Time Begins**  
**March. 27 - Senior Trip - Conservatory of Flowers, San Francisco; 9:00am - 4:00pm; Activity Level: 3; \$45**  
**March. 31 - Babysitting for Beginners Class; Barcode 1263; Ages 10-14Y; 9am-2pm; \$51R/\$58.65NR**

Register for Youth Spring Break Camps Now - April 1-5  
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[OrindaParksandRec@CityofOrinda.org](mailto:OrindaParksandRec@CityofOrinda.org)  
 28 Orinda Way - Orinda Community Center  
 Administrative Office Hours - Monday - Friday 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.