



# THE ORINDA NEWS

Gratis  
Volume 35, Number 5

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

Delivered to 9,000 Households and Businesses in Orinda

12 Issues Annually  
May 2020

## Shutdown Takes Toll on Retailers, Restaurants

KATHY BOHANAN ENZERINK  
Assistant Editor

An unexpected thing happened March 17 at Casa Orinda, Contra Costa County's oldest continuously operating restaurant which has been open since 1932. It closed its doors.

"It was a sad milestone in the restaurant's 88 years of operation. We can't wait until the COVID-19 cautions lessen and it's safe for us to all gather again," said owner John Goyak. "The Casa hasn't been shuttered in at least 50 years."

According to General Manager Claudia Tata, the staff is sheltering in place at their homes, cooking a lot, walking, gardening and maybe gaining a pound or two. "We all stay in touch with group chats and phone calls," she said.

Indeed, it wasn't business as usual in Orinda as the state and city implemented measures to keep residents safe from the coronavirus. But in typical Orinda style, shopkeepers and residents took on the spirit of *We're in This Together*.

Michael Karp, owner of the Fourth Bore Tap Room and Grill, added family-style, take-out meals Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays to the regular menu, while keeping the doors open daily from noon to 7 p.m. Customers place orders online or in person. The restaurant also offers home delivery.

In addition, Karp is donating 15 percent of all family-style meals to Orinda schools and local charities, including a Go Fund Me project to feed health care workers at John Muir Hospitals.

A list of restaurants offering pick up



Paul Jones and Ulises Santiago package vegetarian quinoa salads from Fourth Bore for delivery to John Muir Hospital staff.

and delivery can be found at [www.CityofOrinda.org](http://www.CityofOrinda.org) under the COVID-19 heading.

At Safeway customers stand in darkness and form lines before sunrise to be among the first to nab coveted toilet paper, bleach and paper towels.

Safeway limits the number of customers allowed in at a given time and marks aisles for one-way cart traffic. Not all products are available, and rain checks are not being given during the crisis. Flour is hit or miss. Shelves with canned goods, dry beans and pasta empty quickly. The store accepts online orders which are delivered or picked up at the store.

When deliveries come, CVS Manager Andrew Poudrier sorts through goods on pallets and in storage cases. He moves all virus-related products to the corner sidewalk, and at 11 a.m. begins the distribution process. Essential items are gone within

[SEE BUSINESS page 16]

KATHY ENZERINK

## Fourth of July Traditions Fall Victim to Virus

KATHY BOHANAN ENZERINK  
Assistant Editor

For the first time in its history, Orinda won't see its traditional Fourth of July celebrations. The popular parade is canceled, community gatherings are disallowed, and picnics and barbecues will be delegated to backyards.

With Gov. Newsom banning mass gatherings until August, local July Fourth organizers are ramping up efforts to keep the day's spirit alive in Orinda and bring the community together while staying apart. They have a plan. Or two. Or three.

Ideas range from whimsical to outlandish and the whole spectrum in-between.

Families or individuals could decorate vehicles, honk their horns and wave U.S. flags while wending along designated routes throughout the community. Marching bands could be replaced with a super sound system, loaded into the trunk of a car, blasting patriotic music as part of the auto brigade.

[SEE FOURTH page 2]



Shoppers form lines in front of CVS to stock up on hard-to-find items.

KATHY ENZERINK

## Deadly Outbreak Hits at Home

By PAUL KILDUFF  
Staff Writer

Orinda felt the wrath of COVID-19 when the Orinda Care Center, a nursing home with a history of recent infractions, suffered a deadly outbreak.

Citing recent violations at the home, Orinda City Manager Steve Salomon said "the events at the care center are extremely unfortunate. This facility, like all similar ones, is regulated by the county, the state, and to some extent by the federal government. The virus has demonstrated that there are severe deficiencies in the administration of the regulations at this location and others.

"While the city continues to monitor the situation and will encourage its county, state, and federal legislators to be vigorous in their efforts to make positive

changes, there is no direct role for the city," Salomon said.

As of April 15, four former residents of the facility had died and 24 other residents as well as 28 staffers had tested positive for the virus. According to Dan Kramer, a crisis public relations specialist hired by the facility, those who died were in hospice or had "clinically complex underlying issues." The Orinda Care Center houses 45 patients.

The infected residents still at the nursing home as of April 15 were asymptomatic and are isolating in place to help prevent a spread of the virus, Kramer said. Since the outbreak, no visitors or non-essential visitors have been allowed in to the facility. The facility is also screening employees and residents for symptoms and high temperatures and avoiding group activities.

The outbreak was discovered April 2

[SEE OUTBREAK page 10]

### More Virus News Inside:

- Residents mobilize to make masks
- Book club's generous fund drive
- Keeping students motivated
- Cal Shakes cancels season
- How to get city business done

### IN THIS ISSUE

News	
City Council	9
Fire Safety	7
Police Blotter	14
Education	2, 10
Around Town	
Philanthropy	2, 11
Visual Arts	5
Business Buzz	16
Car Time	14
Classifieds	7
Club meetings	15
Calendar	Online
Everyday Orinda	13
Gardening	8
Letters to the Editor	4
The Orinda Association	3
The Reel Less Travelled	15
Seasoned Shopper	7

Find these stories and more on our website [TheOrindaNews.com](http://TheOrindaNews.com).

NON-PROFIT  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
ORINDA, CA  
PERMIT # 4  
ECRMSS

Postal Customer



## Mash Gas & Food

**Orinda's Lowest Gas Prices**  
**Buy Lotto & Lottery Here**

Self Serve Gasoline	CASH	CREDIT
Regular Unleaded	2.29 <sup>9</sup> / <sub>10</sub>	2.39 <sup>9</sup> / <sub>10</sub>
Plus Unleaded	2.49 <sup>9</sup> / <sub>10</sub>	2.59 <sup>9</sup> / <sub>10</sub>
Premium Unleaded	2.59 <sup>9</sup> / <sub>10</sub>	2.69 <sup>9</sup> / <sub>10</sub>

**22 Bryant Way - Next to Casa Orinda**  
**Mon - Sat 5 am - 12 am; Sun 6 am-11 pm**

◆ **FOURTH** from page 1

Want some noise? The Orinda Association's Fourth of July committee is kicking around the idea of shooting off a canon to get the celebrations started. It's not likely to happen, however. Fire trucks and/or police cars could let their sirens blare, announcing the brigade, trailing behind.

Committee members also are working with the city to have the familiar banners and U.S. flags adorn major streets by mid-June.

"The goal of the 2020 Orinda Fourth of July celebration is to have something which unites the city through shared celebrations and experiences while keeping our citizens safe, 'together/apart,'" said Diane Lautz, committee co-chair.

Contest ideas are aplenty. There could be awards, ribbons or recognition for the best decorations. Start small with a

mailbox in time for Flag Day, June 14. Then ramp it up to the house, yard, car, costume or pet. The more categories, the merrier.

Performance videos could be posted online for everyone to share. Line dancing to YMCA, perhaps?

Synchronization is not just for swimming. At 10 a.m., Orindans may link to a video of past parades on YouTube. Then auto brigades would depart from the Bart parking lot at 10:30 a.m., one group heading north and the other south. Signs would be placed along the designated routes several days in advance.

People could park along the route or watch from their driveways, wearing red, white and blue and holding signs to honor local heroes.

The committee, at a recent virtual brainstorming session, imagined an "Orinda Celebrates" at noon to honor the city's 35th birthday while commemorating the nation's independence. Everyone would



SALLY HOGARTY

The popular **Fourth of July parade** held in past years has become one of the victims of the coronavirus. Organizers are considering alternatives for this year allowing for social distancing.

be encouraged to beat a drum, honk a horn, bang on pots and pans. Church bells would ring and sirens blare. Sound the canon!

Quiet would resume at 12:05 p.m., just in time to light the coals at 12:15 p.m. for a stay-at-home community barbecue,

together/apart.

Details are being fleshed out and will be posted at online media sites and [www.OrindaAssociation.org](http://www.OrindaAssociation.org).

Reach Kathy Enzerink at [kathy@theorindanews.com](mailto:kathy@theorindanews.com).

**"April was fantastic to work with, we recommend her to everyone we know!"**

- Rob & Lisa Sellers 2019



It's **April** in Lamorinda for Real Estate



**April Matthews**  
925.200.0773  
[aprilmat@comcast.net](mailto:aprilmat@comcast.net)  
DRE# 01221153



## School Fundraising Groups Unite in New Foundation

By MEIGHAN BALDWIN  
Contributor

After years of research, evaluation, and collaboration, the Educational Foundation of Orinda (EFO) has agreed to join the parents' clubs of all Orinda schools in creating a new fundraising foundation, ONE Orinda.

Previously, fundraising was decentralized with parents clubs at Del Rey, Glorietta, Miramonte, OIS, Sleepy Hollow and Wagner Ranch working independently to respond to funding requests from the Orinda Union School District (OUSD) and Miramonte High School.

EFO was an additional fundraising entity targeting parents of school-age students, grandparents, alumni and the community at

large. EFO's goal for the 2019-20 campaign is to raise \$1.69 million by June 30.

With the formation of ONE Orinda, all efforts will be centralized. ONE Orinda will aim to raise more than \$6 million annually to support school programs. It will begin accepting funds on July 1 for the next school year.

Prior to the recent economic turmoil caused by the coronavirus outbreak, OUSD was projecting an approximate \$1 million budget shortfall for the coming

year. Now, the district as a whole and Miramonte are facing additional cuts as the COVID-19 crisis cripples the economy and threatens all aspects of the state budget.

OUSD is one of the lowest funded school districts in California, ranking 998 out of approximately 1,000 school districts. It relies heavily on supplemental parent and community funding to keep schools in the top 10 percent in performance.

[SEE ONE page 3]

## \$500 Scholarship Offered in Fire District Essay Contest

The Rescue One Foundation, a nonprofit that supports the local fire district, announced its first-ever essay contest for Orinda and Moraga students. The winner receives a \$500 scholarship.

The contest is open to students who attend school in Moraga or Orinda, live in either town but attend school elsewhere or are home schooled within the jurisdiction of the Moraga-Orinda Fire District.

To enter, applicants must submit a 500- to 1,000- word essay on innovative uses of technology to increase the effectiveness

of emergency evacuation notifications in Moraga-Orinda Fire District's jurisdiction.

Each essay will be reviewed by the Rescue One Foundation award committee, which will select the winner based on the ease of implementation and effectiveness of the idea.

To enter, send the application with essay, in a PDF format, by noon Aug. 1 to [info@mofd.org](mailto:info@mofd.org) with R1F Essay in the subject line.

The winner receives \$500 to be used at an accredited U.S. college.

**Bryan A Silveira, Agent**  
Insurance Lic#: 0M13551  
23 Orinda Way  
Orinda, CA 94563  
Bus: 925-317-3804  
[www.silveirainsurance.com](http://www.silveirainsurance.com)

**Thanks, Lamorinda.**  
I love being here to help life go right™ in a community where people are making a difference every day. Thank you for all you do.

**HAPPY MOTHERS DAY**



**CASA ORINDA RESTAURANT**

Dinner served nightly from 4 p.m.

925.254.2981 ■ 20 Bryant Way ■ Orinda, CA 94563

THE ORINDA ASSOCIATION

A Message From the OA President  
Good Deeds and Gratitude



Carlos Baltodano

While we shelter in place and practice social distancing, we must reflect and acknowledge the people who help us daily to combat COVID-19. These heroes are the nurses, doctors, first responders, grocery clerks, delivery people and many others who keep essential businesses open.

In Orinda we have our own special heroes. For example, The Orinda Association's (OA) Seniors Around Town (SAT) free transportation program has been modified to deliver groceries to seniors and make reassuring phone calls.

On April 8, KPIX 5 filmed SAT volunteer Pamela Schroeder delivering groceries



KATHY ENZERINK

Groceries delivered by a Seniors Around Town volunteer are left at an Orinda doorstep.

to Eartha Newsom at the Senior Village. Newsom says, "This is extremely valuable, giving me a sense of not being alone and isolated."

Kudos to SAT staff and volunteers Kate Wiley, Cathy Goshorn, Marie Waterman, Cindy Powell and Pamela Manning for their incredible dedication to our seniors.

Given the shelter in place, the OA and Fourth of July Committee are working to bring innovative ideas for a community-wide celebration while staying safe. Take heart. This year's Fourth of July will be exciting, shared, watchable and fun. Our goal is "Separately Together." Details will be worked out in the next several months, and we'll keep you informed about how families can participate from their own home and yard. Be sure to check OrindaAssociation.org for updates.

In the meantime, restaurants in Orinda have adapted and are offering delivery and take out. There are many restaurants offering popular dishes, whether its pizza from Zamboni or quesadillas from Baja Cali. Not only will you get a great meal, but you will be helping local restaurants and our economy. To see a list of participating restaurants, go to the city website (cityoforinda.org).

When this is over, may we not take for granted a handshake with a friend, a hug, a crowded theater or a conversation with a neighbor. When this is over, may we be inspired by the good deeds of so many and may we continue to enjoy living in a community that is caring, healthy and strong.

parents will help build the ONE Orinda endowment.

Initial Board of Directors, representing each of the Parents' Clubs, are: Natalie Taquino (Del Rey), Brian Rogers (Glorietta), Clay Deanhardt (Miramonte), Sonya Grover (OIS), Meighan Baldwin (Wagner Ranch) and Dana Wentworth (Sleepy Hollow). Board members representing the broader community are being recruited to join Katie Shogan.

To learn more about One Orinda, go to [www.oneorinda.org](http://www.oneorinda.org). To learn more about EFO, go to [www.orindaefo.org](http://www.orindaefo.org).

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.

The Orinda Association  
P.O. Box 97  
Orinda, CA 94563

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

OFFICERS

President Carlos Baltodano  
Vice President Joe Garvey  
Secretary Sally Hogarty  
Treasurer Bill Waterman  
City Council Liaison Inga Miller

BOARD MEMBERS

Anil Comelo  
Joe Haughin – Board Member Emeritus  
Chris Laszcz-Davis  
Diane Lautz  
Jim Luini – Board Member Emeritus  
Cindy Powell  
Bryan Silveira  
Devan Sudra  
Kate Wiley



All officers and board members volunteer their time.

Masterfully connecting exceptional people with compelling properties.



Over 25 years of experience  
[www.AGrealty1.com](http://www.AGrealty1.com)  
925-254-7600

Alexander Gailas  
DRE # 01356574  
C-925-788-0229

Katia Gailas  
DRE # 02033175  
C-925-788-6646



If you are an Orinda senior in need, please contact the city offices or The Orinda Association for help.

During crisis events, like power outages or COVID-19, seniors are vulnerable. The City of Orinda, The Orinda News and Seniors Around Town are trusted sources of information about services available and local support.



SAT – It's more than a ride!

In-home sheltering has changed the need for rides, but the program has adapted to create two new services:

- 1) shopping & delivery of groceries, and
- 2) reassurance phone calls to our seniors, letting them know they are not alone.

Go to [OrindaAssociation.org](http://OrindaAssociation.org) or call 925-254-0800 to keep this unique program going strong.



CityofOrinda.org 925-253-4221  
Orinda city & county services, BART changes  
CityofOrinda.org/444/Virtual-Recreation  
Orinda Parks and Rec

The Orinda Association is  
A non-profit public benefit  
501(c)(3) corporation



Authentic Cuisine of Thailand

- Family Owned
- 3 Generations of Thai cooking experience
- All sauces made fresh
- Full Bar

Lunch: Mon.-Fri. 11-2  
Dinner: Mon.-Sun. 4:30-9:00

23 F Orinda Way, Orinda  
(925) 253-1975

Zamboni's

PIZZA COMPANY

1 Camino Sobrante, Ste 4  
We're right across from  
Orinda Safeway!

Thin Crust & Deep Dish Pizza

Delicious pizza, calzones, salads and drinks. Eat in or order out, we're open everyday.

Remember we always offer  
FREE local delivery! (\$15 min)

Open Daily

M-Th 11a – 9:00p  
Fri – Sat 11a – 9:30p  
Sundays 11a – 8:30p

# Editorial

## Silver Linings

None of us has ever lived through something as far reaching and terrifying as the coronavirus. As challenging as it has been, the health crisis has brought out the best of humanity. In stunning shows of compassion, Orindans have stepped up to help each other.

We feel very fortunate to continue

producing both our print and online newspapers thanks to our advertisers and the support of The Orinda Association. Because of them, we can continue to keep you informed about what's going on close to home.

Thank you again for your support and stay safe!

— Executive Editor Sally Hogarty

# Letters to the Editor

## Making Fire Prevention a Priority

While the main goal of a recent city survey was to assess whether Orindans had the appetite for an increased sales tax, it also queried us about investment priorities for the City Council.

When it came to wildfire prevention, 86 percent of respondents said it was extremely or very important and ranked it more important than repaving public streets or repairing collapsing storm drains.

We have seen with the COVID-19 pandemic that it is extremely important to plan for disasters. Sadly, a wildfire is more likely than not and, given this graphic illustration of what a lack of preparation can do, it is incumbent on all of us to reduce the fuel in Orinda.

The second lesson from COVID-19 is that we need to work together. If one person does not do their share to prevent the spread with social distancing, they are putting others at risk; if one neighbor does not reduce their own fuel load, they are putting others at risk.

Happily, neighborhoods are self-organizing to form Firewise groups and those groups have come together to form an all-Orinda Firewise Council so we can support each other. However, we also have a duty to urge the City Council and fire department to make wildfire prevention a concrete priority and show us they care by budgeting for fire prevention.

There is a petition sponsored by the Orinda Firewise Council asking the City Council and the Moraga-Orinda Fire District Board to focus resources and attention on fire prevention. Please consider adding the names of everyone in your household to it and forwarding to friends in Orinda. The city and the fire department need and want to hear your voice. To join, go to <https://bit.ly/orindafirewise>. Find out about the Firewise Council, go to <https://bit.ly/3bdkqyT>.

— Melanie Light  
Chair, Orinda Firewise Council

## Conversion of Streets Supported

The February survey of Orinda residents included questions about Orinda's roads and storm drains.

Should the 30 miles of roads which are currently maintained by those living on them, home to 1,500 Orinda households, become part of the Orinda public road

system?

Should storm drains carrying water from public roads which run through private property be maintained by the city?

The response to both was positive.

However, the questions were not posed as stated above. Instead they asked: "Would you approve another new tax to repair private roads and maintain private storm drains?"

The answer to both questions was a weak "maybe" but when the bias that was built into the questions by tying them to a new tax, which many reject regardless of magnitude or benefit, is removed, it was a definite yes.

Not surprisingly, 26 percent strongly opposed. I say not surprisingly because 25 percent strongly oppose any new tax regardless what it is for or how much it is.

Included in the opposition were 25 percent of those living on private roads even though the benefit they would receive would be five times the cost to them (because everyone would chip in, just like everyone chips in for roads that have already been deemed public). All they heard was "new tax" and they responded "oppose."

Removing those "strongly opposed" from the results because the question was poorly framed as a question about new taxes, the remaining respondents indicate that two-thirds approve of allowing the few roads that have not been allowed into the city road network be included; and that the city should take responsibility for storm water collected on public property and routed through private property.

I believe that this indicates strong support for the creation of a task force to figure out how these goals could be met. If you agree, please go to [www.orindaroadfacts.info/letter-of-support](http://www.orindaroadfacts.info/letter-of-support) and add your name to the letter that more than 700 of your neighbors already have signed asking the City Council to form such a task force.

— Steve Cohn

## District's Policy Will Hurt Students

COVID-19 is clearly a public health crisis, and the safety of Californians, Americans and citizens of the world is of utmost import. However, in addition to securing the safety of the students of the Acalanes



## List of The Orinda News Advertisers

	Page		Page
<b>Automotive</b>		Law Offices of Victoria Robinson Smith	13
Mash Gas and Food	1	Park Place Wealth Advisors	8
Orinda Motors	14	Professional Property Management	15
Orinda Shell Auto Care	9	State Farm Insurance - Bryan Silveira	2
<b>Beauty and Fitness</b>		<b>Real Estate</b>	
CoreKinetics	7	AG Realty	
Living Lean Exercise & Eating Program	13	The Gailas Team	3
<b>Dental</b>		Coldwell Banker	
Dr. Amin Samadian DDS	5	Laura Abrams	7
Dr. Mary Smith DDS	11	Suzanne Toner Geoffrion	5
<b>Educational</b>		Shellie Kirby	12
Orinda Parks & Rec	12	Sotheby's	
<b>Garden/Landscaping</b>		Ann Newton Cane	8
McDonnell Nursery	8	Village Associates	
Tree Sculpture	7	Dexter Honens II	9
<b>Medical</b>		April Matthews	2
Dr. Brian Clark, Psy. D.	10	Murphy Team - Karen & Hilary Murphy	15
Medicine Shoppe	5	Ann Sharf	11
Orinda Optometry	9	Clark Thompson	13
<b>Nonprofits</b>		<b>Restaurants/Catering</b>	
The Orinda Association	3, 10	Baan Thai	12
Orinda Classic Car Show	16	Casa Orinda	2
Orinda Community Foundation	10	Fourth Bore	6
<b>Professional Service</b>		Siam Orchid	3
5A Rent-A-Space	11	Zamboni's Pizza Company	3
Bay Area Underpinning	15	<b>Retail</b>	
Carefree Moves	16	McCaulou's	15

Union High School District, Superintendent John Nickerson and the AUHSD Governing Board have an obligation to their students' current and future academic opportunities.

The vast majority of high schools in California and colleges throughout the nation have decided to offer students the option to receive grades for the second semester that has been disrupted by COVID-19. Unfortunately, AUHSD has chosen to go it alone with a "Credit/No Credit" policy in which AUHSD students will not receive letter grades on their transcripts for their accomplishments since the beginning of the calendar year.

We believe this approach is far from the norm within California. Based on a list compiled by the parents of AUHSD, many public school districts in California and most private schools in the Bay Area will

report grades.

The UC system and most elite colleges are offering students a choice between grades and "Credit/No Credit." The current policy also ignores the signatures of over 800 parents and students in the district who have petitioned AUHSD for the option of letter grades.

This "Credit/No Credit" approach will unfairly disadvantage AUHSD students who apply to colleges because most other students will have letter grades for the second semester. It will also remove the recognition that students deserve for their academic achievements this year.

We, and close to 1,000 others in the district, request AUHSD allow students to earn letter grades for the second semester of 2019-2020.

— Dave and Mary Roach

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

Executive Editor.....Sally Hogarty  
 Editor.....Simar Khanna  
 Assistant Editors ..... David Dierks, Kathy Bohanan Enzerink  
 Advertising Representatives.....Jill Gelster, Elana O'Loskey  
 Editorial Committee.....Jill Gelster, Cindy Powell, Mark Roberts, Kate Wiley  
 Staff Writers.....Carlos Baltodano, Mimi Bommarito, Bobbie Dodson, Paul Kilduff, Barbara Kobsar, Elana O'Loskey, Tom Westlake  
 Contributing Writers ..... Meighan Bladwin, Melanie Light  
 Graphics/Layout..... Aspen Consulting: Jill Gelster & David Dierks  
 Printing.....Folger Graphics

# The Orinda News

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

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

Find us on



The OA is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization.

Opinions of The Orinda News are expressed on the editorial page. Views of writers and letters to the editor are their own and do not necessarily reflect the views of The Orinda Association or of The Orinda News. Advertisements appearing in The Orinda News are not to be construed as endorsements by The Orinda Association or The Orinda News.

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

Send letters to: Editor, The Orinda News, P.O. Box 97, Orinda, CA 94563, or email to [editor@theorindanews.com](mailto:editor@theorindanews.com). Letters to Editor for the June issue are due **May 8, 2020**.

For display advertising rates, call Jill Gelster at 925-528-9225 ([jill@aspenconsult.net](mailto:jill@aspenconsult.net)), Elana O'Loskey at 925-984-1751 ([elanao@mac.com](mailto:elanao@mac.com)) or Kathy Enzerink at 252-626-2109 ([kathy@theorindanews.com](mailto:kathy@theorindanews.com)). The deadline for the June issue is **May 8, 2020**.

## ARTS

## Galleries: Inventive Jewelry, RBG, Wall Relief and Art in Place

By ELANA O'LOSKEY  
Staff Writer

With the hopes the shelter-in-place order is lifted this month, the Lamorinda Arts Council (LAC) has scheduled an exhibit featuring Dina Asna, Bay Area Studio Artists and Jeff Sully during May in the Art Gallery at the Orinda Library.

If the library building is open in time for the artists to hang their show, the exhibit will go forward. If the building is not open in time, the exhibit will be rescheduled. Check with [www.lamorindaarts.org/gallery-2](http://www.lamorindaarts.org/gallery-2) for updated scheduling. A reception for the artists is scheduled for 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. May 16.

Meanwhile, the arts council has created an Art in Place web page, a guide to online art experiences. Curated by arts council members, all listings are free and updated every Friday. All art genres for all ages are represented including live cams at the Oakland Zoo and Monterey Bay Aquarium, an opera tweeted by birds and virtual art museum exhibits worldwide.

To explore Art in Place go to [www.lamorindaarts.org/art-in-place](http://www.lamorindaarts.org/art-in-place); if you have a suggestion send it to [artinplace@lamorindaarts.org](mailto:artinplace@lamorindaarts.org).

About the featured May artists: Asna of Moraga was born in Tehran. Stricken by polio at 18 months old, she persevered. Believing that nothing was impossible, Asna studied at a high-ranking university and won a scholarship from the Goethe-Institut / German Embassy.

In Germany, she obtained a master's degree in computer science which eventually brought her to Silicon Valley with her two sons. After her IT career, she moved to Moraga where she works as a real estate agent. Her boys went to Campolindo High School and on to college. Throughout her life, she said staying in touch with creative expression has been important.

Asna paints watercolors with subjects from nature retaining the originals and offering prints. She then interprets the sensibility from each painting into themed jewelry collections. Most of her pieces are antique bronze; some are antique silver.

From her watercolor *Enthusiasm*, she created a themed collection of earrings, pendants and pins with splashes of curvilinear color echoing the Art Deco era. The artisan quality of each piece is evident in the imaginative way graphics are incorporated into her designs. Earrings and pendants have images on both the front and back that seem to 'talk' to each other, like tiny paintings living next to each other.

She and her mother enjoy working together creating the jewelry, all made by hand. "My jewelry is created to carry a message; we all have what we need but we

forget to tap into it," she said.

Named themes include: Awareness, Miracle, Healing, Choice, Vulnerability, Courage, Passion and Opportunity. Five percent of Asna's sales are donated to a nonprofit supporting children with special needs. Visit [www.etsy.com/shop/dinartgift/](http://www.etsy.com/shop/dinartgift/) for a full range of Asna's creations.

Bay Area Studio Artists (BASA) "Inspired By" exhibit was scheduled in April; the same exhibit has migrated to May. BASA is a group of women artists who have been showing work and painting together since 2010. Their eclectic mix of subject matter ranges from figurative to landscapes, realisms to expressionism. To see more about what each member is "Inspired By" view the virtual exhibit at [www.bayareastudioartists.com](http://www.bayareastudioartists.com).

BASA members participating in the show are Susan Almquist, Jeanette Crawford Baird, Lassie Colebourn, Ellen Reintjes, Ruth Stanton, Joanne Taeuffer, Sharon Tama and Marcy Wheeler.

Emblematic of the way the group works is their 36" x 54" collage *RBG* (Ruth Bader Ginsburg). Each artist was randomly assigned a piece of the painting to complete. The patchwork of their acrylic paintings, applied like puzzle pieces on canvas, completes the whole work. They say they see *RBG* as a vessel for celebrating the many stories of the struggle for women's rights.

Upon inspection you will see the Statue of Liberty has RBG's back; her collar is made up of suffragettes daring to fight for women's voting rights; entwined in her robes are other women who are part of the fight for equality – Maya Angelou, Michelle Obama, Betty Ford, Sally Ride, Harriet Tubman, Amelia Earhart, Harriet Beecher Stowe, Ella Fitzgerald and Rosa Parks.

Sully, of Richmond, has been influenced over time by a wide variety of art forms. Painted Australian aboriginal sculptures are still a source for him. He also appreciates the directness of Pygmy bark paintings and other primitive arts, in particular stone tool-making and wooden masks.

The Taoist/Buddhist bent of Japanese landscape paintings always inspire him. In contrast, at the S.F. Art Institute the work of the Abstract Expressionists was important. The openness and boundary-breaking work of the Dadaists influenced him in a different way. Dadaism, a response to WWI, was an art movement of the European avant-garde in the early 20th century.

In *What You Desire*, a 30" x 48" wood, acrylic and mixed media piece, Sully's abstract structure uses a personal geometry to convey his aesthetic in a graphic yet rugged way. All eight works he is showing are shallow wall relief pieces somewhere



ERTAN ATAY

*The Museums Are Closed* by Ertan Atay, a prolific artist from Turkey, well-known worldwide for his unique digital collages combining social commentary with humor. See more at [www.failunfailunmefailun.com](http://www.failunfailunmefailun.com).

between 3' and 6' in dimension. See a wide range of his work at [www.jeffreysully.com](http://www.jeffreysully.com).

To learn more about the Lamorinda Arts Council, go to [www.lamorindaarts.org](http://www.lamorindaarts.org). The Art Gallery at the Orinda Library is at 26 Orinda Way. Open during normal library hours – Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; and Sunday, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Call 925-254-2184 for more information or visit <http://ccclib.org/>.

The Art Gallery at Wilder is not open in May. Visit [www.lamorindaarts.org/current-exhibits-wilder/](http://www.lamorindaarts.org/current-exhibits-wilder/) for updates on scheduled exhibits.

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

The Medicine Shoppe

100% Pure Pharmacy<sup>SM</sup>

Spring Has Sprung!  
Sneezes, Sniffles, Runny Eyes?  
Come to Medicine Shoppe<sup>®</sup>  
for all your allergy needs.



Naomi Yuen, Pharm D.

Custom compounding available.  
Next to Hollyhock and McCaulou's  
282 Orinda Village Sq. • 254-1211  
<http://orindamedicineshoppe.com>



DR. AMIN SAMADIAN DDS

Multi-specialty practice that  
enables affordable health care

Services include: Implants, Same day crowns, TMJ,  
Myofascial pain, Orthodontics, laser gum treatments

Are you interested in our financing options?

24 MONTHS-ZERO INTEREST FINANCING  
ALL SERVICES COVERED

[www.samadiandds.com](http://www.samadiandds.com) | Call: 925-254-2360

23 Orinda Way, STE 301, Orinda, CA 94563

Time to buy or sell? Let me help you.

See what my clients say at [www.myagentsuzanne.com](http://www.myagentsuzanne.com)

Clients Are  
Always First

Suzanne Toner Geoffrion  
925-699-4832  
CalBRE# 01878803

Presidents International Sterling  
Top 100 Sales Coldwell Banker SF Bay Area



©2020 Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC. All Rights Reserved. Coldwell Banker® is a registered trademark licensed to Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC. An Equal Opportunity Company. Equal Housing Opportunity. Each Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage Office is Owned by a Subsidiary of NRT LLC. CalBRE License #01908304.

# THEATRE SQUARE MARKET

AT FOURTH BORE TAPROOM & GRILL

PROVIDING HOT MEALS FOR OUR HEROES AT  
JOHN MUIR HOSPITALS

**FAMILY STYLE MEALS AND  
HARD-TO-FIND MARKET ITEMS  
ORDER ONLINE [WWW.THEFOURTHBORE.COM](http://WWW.THEFOURTHBORE.COM)**

ORDER 24 HOURS IN ADVANCE  
MONDAY THRU FRIDAY FOR  
TUESDAY THRU SATURDAY SERVICE



GROWLERS OF DRAFT BEER  
WINE BOTTLES TO GO  
MASON JAR COCKTAILS

**OPEN MONDAY THRU  
SATURDAY 12PM - 7PM**

P: (925) 254-1183

[WWW.THEFOURTHBORE.COM](http://WWW.THEFOURTHBORE.COM)

OUTDOORS / CLASSIFIEDS



## Seasoned Shopper

Working to Open Markets

BARBARA KOBSAR



While some farmers' markets are open with many new guidelines, officials are hoping to open Orinda's 24th season later this month if the situation with the coronavirus becomes more stable.

The Orinda market is part Contra Costa Certified Farmers' Markets (CCCFM), that is proud to be the first non-profit organization to launch a farmers' market program in Contra Costa County over 35 years ago. CCCFM opened its first farmers' market in 1982 at Hill Crest Shopping Center in Pleasant Hill. Since then, farmers' markets have become a vital part of the food supply.

Conceived by a small group of master gardeners and horticulture students from Diablo Valley College in Pleasant Hill, CCCFM was the result of grass-roots efforts by community members inspired by the local food movement and driven by the desire to bridge the gap between food producers and consumers. The markets thrive with ongoing support from the city, community, growers and vendors to continue the farm-to-table movement.

Adolfo and Anna Ramos from J & J Farms in Hughson have been part of the Orinda market for more than 20 years. Sweet cherries are one of their specialties and a favorite for shoppers to eat fresh or to make homemade cobblers or clafoutis.

Onions are another bright spot at the



BARBARA KOBSAR  
Adolfo and Anna Ramos from J & J Farms have been part of the Orinda market for more than 20 years.



BARBARA KOBSAR

Jesse Granados of Royal Greens Family Farm, one of the newest members of the Orinda market, is a third-generation farmer and brings a variety of in-season fresh, picked produce to fill his stands each week.

stand – large, burgundy colored with fresh green tops still attached. They give a lot of credit to their fertile growing area in producing these delicious onions that are perfect on the grill or in sandwiches and salads.

Royal Greens Family Farm from Hollister is one of the newest members to join the market.

Jesse and Ruby Granados are third-generation farmers and bring a variety of in-season fresh-picked produce to fill their stands each week.

Highlights of the season include asparagus, peas, artichokes, squash, cucumbers and greenhouse tomatoes.

Stay in touch through facebook.com/OrindaFarmersMarket, Instagram@OrindaFarmersMarket, cccfm.org and the market hotline 925-431- 8361.

Barbara Kobsar sells her Cottage Kitchen jam and jellies at the Jam Stand on Saturdays at the Orinda and San Ramon markets, and on Sundays at the Walnut Creek market. She is also president of CCCFM Association Board of Directors.

## Firewise Council Offers Tips to Get Yardwork Done While Sheltering

By MELANIE LIGHT  
Contributor

Despite the shelter in place order, homeowners still need to get their properties ready for the upcoming fire season.

Homeowners can hire arborists, landscapers, gardeners and similar professionals to perform "hazard reduction standards" without violating the order. Their work must comply with the fire code as follows:

- Cut grass and weeds to less than three feet by June 15;
- Trim tree limbs to create at least five feet of vertical clearance between the lowest portion of the canopy and the ground or ground fuels;
- Thin or remove concentrations of wild or non-irrigated brush;
- Remove ladder fuels to disrupt the fuel bed;
- Remove leaves and tree litter from roofs;
- Maintain roadside to create three feet of horizontal and 15 feet of vertical clearance;
- Remove dead or diseased trees;
- Remove dead combustible vegetation.

The Moraga Orinda Fire Department can supply a letter signed by the chief that residents can give to landscapers or businesses stating they are allowed to perform fire prevention work during the shelter in place. To obtain the letter, go to MOFD.org or contact Gorden Graham, fuels mitigation manager, at ggraham@mofd.org or 925-258-4520.

Melanie Light is chair of the Orinda Firewise Council, a consortium of leaders from 13 Orinda Firewise groups working on fire prevention efforts. Reach her at info@melanielight.com.

## ...classified ads

### Services

**Rain Gutter Cleaning**, Roof Cleaning, overhanging branches trimmed. Charles (h) 925-254-5533 or (c) 925-528-9385.

### Wanted

**I buy Danish Modern & 1950's Modern furniture**, fine art, sterling silver, & estate jewelry. Will buy 1 item or entire estate! Call Rick at 510-219-9644. Courteous house calls. Rick Hudson Estate Liquidation, LLC.

**Unwanted Eye Glasses** are collected for Lions Club at The Orinda Association office, 26 Orinda Way, Orinda.

PILATES



**CoreKinetics** Take control of your health.  
www.CoreKinetics.com

\*Nationally Certified, experienced teachers.  
\*Innovative Classes and Private sessions  
\* We work with every BODY and All ages

Visit our website for great offers.



**The Well Balanced Workout**


**925-708-3279**  
Please call for an appointment  
50 Vashell Way, #120, Orinda, CA 94563

Let me first say how much we all miss seeing our friends and neighbors up close.

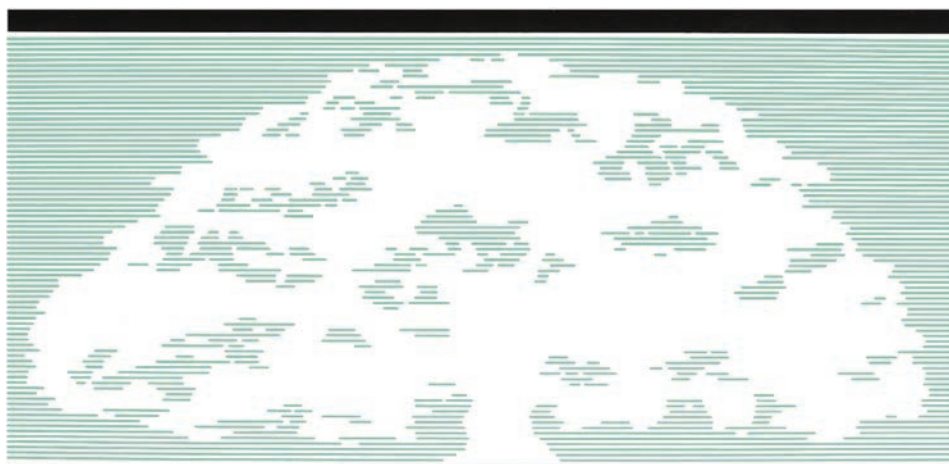
Our hearts go out to our service providers and the essential work force who are keeping us safe and fed.

This is not business as usual! Not for any of us, but, surprisingly, there is still business.

Within the guidelines of the law, we are still meeting our clients needs and advising a path through this process.



Be well! Stay Safe! And let us know how we can help.



## TREE SCULPTURE

COMPLETE TREE CARE

**Proudly serving the East Bay since 1965!**

Fully Insured ❖ Certified Arborists ❖ License #655977

**(925) 254-7233 ❖ www.treesculpture.com**

**LAURA ABRAMS**

laura@lauraabrams.com  
www.lauraabrams.com  
510.697.3225

Coldwell Banker Orinda  
Top 100 Coldwell Banker Bay Area  
International Presidents Elite  
DRE#01272382



GLOBAL LUXURY 15

# Gardeners Bracing for Battle with Mother Nature at Bruns Theater

By SALLY HOGARTY  
Executive Editor

With California Shakespeare Theater canceling its 2020 summer season, the usual crowds of theater lovers will not be filling the parking lot at the Bruns Amphitheater and hiking up the hill to the picnic grounds and stage this summer.

Meanwhile, Mother Nature remains at

work with her many native and non-native plants taking over usually well-tended paths and picnic areas. A group of volunteers hope to curb Mother Nature's enthusiastic spring growth regardless of activities, or lack thereof, at the scenic venue.

Normally, Will's Weeders would meet Tuesdays from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. beginning [SEE WEEDERS page 14]



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Members of Will's Weeders (L-R) Sue Fernstrom, Julie Landres, Ellen Dale, Muriel Wilson and Cherie Grant get ready to spruce up the grounds around the Bruns Amphitheater on a drizzly day last May.



ORINDA GARDEN CLUB

Louise Diracles, who is writing the History of the Orinda Garden Club needs to identify the women in this photo from 1966. It is believed they are (L-R) Dorothy Lamb, Mary Field and Mattie Borden.

## Signs of Hope from Garden Club

By ELANA O'LOSKEY  
Staff Writer

The shelter in place order didn't stop the silky orange petals of California poppies to spread across the Highway 24 on-ramp triangle, their frothy blossoms waving about in the breeze. Glinting in the sun, they have all but overwhelmed the earlier blooming daffodils.

The Orinda Garden Club's Beautification Committee created this little bit of spring-time heaven, which was planted in the fall, according to club president Jane Wiser.

Sue Anderson-Berger, Lisa Hallahan and Gina Barretta led a crew of club volunteer planters. *Narcissus* (a bulb) and *Eschscholzia* (an annual from seed) thrive without additional water. Both are adapted to the East Bay's climate as long as they get sun; they lie dormant except in late winter and early spring.

"They represent renewal and the certainty that we will emerge from this crisis together," said Wiser.

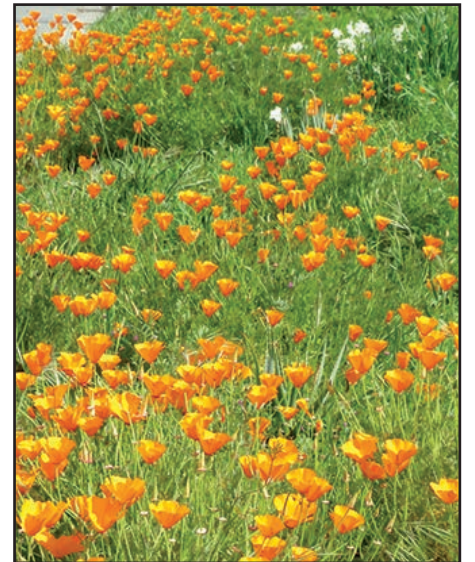
Inveterate club gardeners, by complying with safe-distancing practices, are continuing their connection with the earth and all things beautiful it brings. Many are planting victory gardens.

Tomato Lady, Sue Anderson-Berger, is nursing several hundred tomato seedlings, a reminder for the rest of us to get busy, whether in a container, raised bed or just the plain old ground. She also sent seed packages of easy-to-grow Virginia Stock (*Malcolmia maritima*) to members to unite their gardens with its profusely flowering cinnamon/clove scented white blossoms.

New members are cultivating Scented Geranium (*Pelargonium spp.*) cuttings from the original plant of club founder Dorothy Lamb.

Louise Diracles, who is working on the *History of the Orinda Garden Club* while sheltering in place, needs the public's help to identify the women in a photo from 1966 (above). In addition, there are two garden club presidents whose first names she does not know: Mrs. Hans Lugenbuehl (1939-1940) and Mrs. Neal East (1948-1949). Diracles can be reached at [louisediracles@comcast.net](mailto:louisediracles@comcast.net).

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



KATHY ENZERINK

*Eschscholzia californica* or California Poppies with their silky tangerine petals glinting in the sun brighten up the triangle meridian on Camino Pablo near the Highway 24 on/off ramp.

**Park Place**   
**WEALTH ADVISORS, INC.**  
A Registered Investment Advisor  
Retirement & Income Planning • Estate Planning • Charitable Planning • Educational Funding  
401K Rollover Specialists  
18 Orinda Way, Orinda • 925-254-7766  
Registered Principals with and securities offered through Securities America, Inc.  
Member FINRA, SIPC. Park Place Wealth Advisors Inc. and Securities America are separate entities.

Ann Newton Cane • [a.newtoncane@ggsir.com](mailto:a.newtoncane@ggsir.com) • [AnnNewtonCane.com](http://AnnNewtonCane.com)

Golden Gate  
Sotheby's  
INTERNATIONAL REALTY  
415.999.0253  
Ann Newton Cane  
Lic # 02084093

Golden Gate | Sotheby's  
INTERNATIONAL REALTY

**McDonnell**  **Nursery**



family owned since 1933

Flowers - Trees - Succulents - Pottery & Fountains  
Benches - Garden Decor - House Plants  
Gifts - Jewelry - Landscape Consultation

[www.mcdonnellnursery.com](http://www.mcdonnellnursery.com)  
196 Moraga Way • Orinda • (925) 254-3713 • Open Daily



CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC



Orindan **Vanessa Bell** and her daughter, **Brinly**, a senior at Miramonte High School, work together to sew surgical masks for the It Takes A Village project. MIMI BOMMARITO

## Making Masks and Other Ways Volunteers Find Ways to Help

By MIMI BOMMARITO  
Staff Writer

Orinda residents of all ages mobilized their talents to battle the coronavirus pandemic, many making quite a departure from the skill sets previously required to succeed in their “day jobs.”

Two endeavors which involved a substantial amount of socially-distanced, community teamwork include the It Takes a Village face shield and face mask effort, and surgical gown initiative led by the Orinda Rotary Club.

It Takes a Village was organized by Oaklander Shelly Wong, who created a Facebook group and began recruiting friends and family to cut and craft plastic facial protective gear, and cut and sew surgical masks after learning of the projected mass safety-gear shortages in Bay Area and New York hospitals.

“We started working on this project in late March with about 15 people,” said Emily Wu of Orinda, a private banker with First Republic Bank, who has been working from home by day, but in her down time assists in the mask-making production line.

As of mid-April, this consolidated effort attracted more than 65 sewists, 10 fabric cutters, five elastic cutters, five launderers, five families making face shields and two drivers.

“It’s amazing to count the volunteers we have today,” Wu said. “Everyone wants to help. It’s heartwarming.”

Because all tasks take place in the homes of individual volunteers, photos posted in the Facebook group are helpful to provide a sense of teamwork and accomplishment.

It Takes a Village also tapped the abilities and goodwill of the home bound older children of the numerous volunteers. In

some homes, three generations are working together for the cause, something many have never experienced in their lifetimes.

By early April the group had manufactured about 4,000 surgical masks and more than 350 plastic facial shields, sanitized and shipped them to hospitals in San Francisco, Alameda and New York.

“San Francisco women’s clothing manufacturer Bryn Walker supplied beautiful fabric and many of the difficult-to-obtain accessories, such as elastic,” Wu said.

“I have never met most of you, yet I know you are excited as I am to get one more mask or face shield to the front line every day,” founder Wong wrote as she thanked volunteers from all over the Bay Area.

“If I have enough fabric, sometimes I can sew 100 masks in a day,” said Orindan Vanessa Bell, who is an interior lighting designer by profession but has always known her way around a sewing machine. “I’m sure I’ve made over 500 by now.”

Dan Gannett, president of the Orinda Rotary Club and independent financial planner by profession, recently found himself learning the surgical gown manufacturing ropes.

“One of our Orinda Rotarians, epidemiologist Dr. Yenjean Hwang, alerted us to the projected shortage of personal protective equipment at Alta Bates Summit Hospital,” Gannett said. The Orinda chapter sprang into action to source materials, fund, and, perhaps most importantly, craft a viable plan of action.

“We needed around 450 gowns in a very short time,” Gannett said.

In this case, his team decided not to farm the project out to a wide array of individuals. Instead, after speaking with several small business-owners in the tailoring industry, the Rotarians decided to

[SEE MASKS page 11]

## How the City is Conducting Business During Shutdowns, Shelter in Place

By KATHY BOHANAN ENZERINK  
Assistant Editor

Across the counter, face-to-face and in-person meetings halted March 16 when the initial order to shelter-in-place was issued by Contra Costa Health Services.

City Council and Planning Commission: Meetings are held by teleconference via Zoom video conferencing. The schedules are listed at CityofOrinda.org. Non-essential meetings are cancelled while the shelter-in-place order is in effect. All meetings are open to the public.

Planning Department: Staff are working remotely online and are accessible by email to answer general planning questions, accept planning applications, process permits and investigate code enforcement cases. Virtual appointments may be scheduled 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. Monday to Thursday.


Email questions, applications and plans for review to [orindaplanning@cityoforinda.org](mailto:orindaplanning@cityoforinda.org).

Parks and Recreation: The department has cancelled all remaining Winter/Spring classes through May 29. Activities, events, and facility reservations are cancelled while the shelter-in-place order is in effect. Program refunds, credits and deposits are being processed with details of who is eligible for partial or full credits and refunds at CityofOrinda.org.

Public Safety: For non-emergency matters, contact Orinda Dispatch at 925-646-2441. Call 911 for emergencies.

Public Works: Only essential services are being maintained. Report urgent conditions to Orinda Dispatch at 925-646-2441. Call 925-253-4231 to report non-urgent issues.


Kathy Enzerink can be reached at [kathy@theorindanews.com](mailto:kathy@theorindanews.com).



*Serving the real estate needs of clients, friends and family in your neighborhood since 1989.*

DEDICATION  DILIGENCE  RESULTS

**DEXTER HONENS II**  
Real Estate Broker  
Office: (925) 253-2148  
Cell: (510) 918-8911  
Email: [honens@pacbell.net](mailto:honens@pacbell.net)



BRE # 01029372



## Orinda Shell Auto Care

- Complete Auto Care -  
Scheduled Maintenance -  
Air Conditioning - Electrical Repairs -  
Brakes and Suspension - Warranty  
Repair - Wheel Alignments -  
Free Shuttle Service  
Walking Distance from BART

Celebrating Over 18 Years in Business  
Thank You Orinda!





925 254-1486 • fax 925 254-3427  
9 Orinda Way  
e-mail [orindashell@sbcglobal.net](mailto:orindashell@sbcglobal.net)



## We'll see this through together.

While looking forward to opening as soon as we can, please know that our office is here to serve our community with virtual visits and emergency eye care.

Online contact lens orders are also available online, 24/7 at [orindaoptometrygroup.com](http://orindaoptometrygroup.com).





**Orinda Optometry Group**  
[office@orindaoptometrygroup.com](mailto:office@orindaoptometrygroup.com)  
(925) 253-1320

Photo by micha / Unsplash

CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

# Grief, Sadness, Ingenuity as Schools Suddenly Shut

By MIMI BOMMARITO  
Staff Writer

Amidst a continually changing timetable dictated by the coronavirus pandemic, Orinda students and their parents watched in shock and disbelief as the remainder of the 2020 school year morphed from a well-oiled, productive routine into a dedicated scramble by school officials to forge workable plans for continuing education at home, known as “distance learning.”

Educators were nimble and well-trained to adjust to the sudden shift to virtual classroom.

Trish Cetrone, a fifth-grade teacher at Glorietta Elementary said, “The technology we’ve all been using on a regular

basis felt like a leg-up when we were hit unexpectedly by online teaching. Orinda students were already trained to use Google Classroom and some of the extension apps for math and science. Orinda was definitely as prepared as we could be.”

Elaina Jones, a fourth-grade teacher at Sleepy Hollow, concurred. “Every teacher has shifted to online learning without hesitation, and there is a collective goal to do whatever it takes to support our students and their families,” she said.

On March 12, students unwittingly departed their campuses, never realizing a key chapter had abruptly ended.

“I lived my last day of high school without ever knowing it was my last day,” Miramonte senior Anika Shandalov said.

“I never knowingly bought my last drink from the vending machine. I never knowingly walked to class for the last time, and I never knowingly appreciated what school brought to my life.”

“I want nothing more than to sit at those ugly, light brown desks and to be taught,” she said.

But by April 7, following directives based on the predicted course of the pandemic, AUHSD School Superintendent John Nickerson solemnly announced online distance learning would remain in effect until the end of the school year.

“For me, this has felt like a grieving process,” Miramonte Principal Julie Parks shared with parents in a poignant, heartfelt email. “As we negotiated the closure of school, I felt the early stages of denial, wondering how all this could possibly be true. Later, I felt anger and frustration at

[SEE SCHOOLS page 12]



MIMI BOMMARITO

Miramonte Senior **Eli Goldsmith** stands next to a yard sign celebrating the 2020 Miramonte High School graduates. All 320 Matador grads received a sign in their front yard, thanks to the coordinated efforts of parent volunteers.



SALLY HOGARTY

Miramonte High School became a ghost town after campuses were suddenly shut down in March.



**Brian Clark, Psy.D.**  
licensed clinical psychologist  
PSY 25198

ADOLESCENTS · ADULTS · FAMILIES

specializing in:  
Achievement Pressure  
AD/HD  
Parenting Support  
Anxiety  
School Stress  
Depression

954 Risa Road · Lafayette  
(925) 385-8050  
www.brianclarkpsyd.com

## ◆ OUTBREAK from page 1

after two residents were hospitalized for flu symptoms and Contra Costa County Health Services (CCHS) officials stepped in to test residents and staff.

After the attack, the nursing home came under fire for various violations at the facility and at others run by owner Crystal Solorzano.

Charges levied against the nursing home last summer included:

Staffing at the nursing home being short on average two out of every three days it was monitored.

Improper storage and handling of medications.

Failure to train staff to sanitize plates and utensils putting patients at risk for food borne illnesses.

Workers improperly administering anti-psychotic drugs.

A mentally disturbed housekeeper with a history of prior complaints sexually assaulting a patient with dementia.

Kramer said these incidents were “unacceptable, but isolated.”

According to several news reports, Solorzano, who operates 11 nursing homes throughout California, has been cited for nine incidents at her facilities. Last May the state sought to revoke her nursing home administrator’s license.

However, that action does not prevent her from owning nursing homes. She was not approved to open a nursing home in San Jose in December and two other locations because violations at her current properties posed “immediate jeopardy” for patients, according to news reports.

One reason the state sought to revoke her license was it accused her of submitting fake college transcripts as part of her application to open the San Jose facility,

according to press reports. Solorzano has denied the charges and is appealing.

One of the incidents cited in denying her application to open the San Jose facility was a fire that broke out under a patient’s bed at her Lake Merritt nursing home due to faulty wiring in 2017.

When asked about the outbreak at her nursing home by ABC7 News, Solorzano said there’s “a lot of things” she’d like to discuss but will only do so “when the time is right.” The station also reported Solorzano is in the midsts of filming a documentary.

One problem at the facility has been its ability to have enough staff on hand – an important factor in controlling the spread of the virus. According to Kramer, “a concern” is “the potential loss of staff.” As of April 15, the county health department was providing additional staff.

Commenting on staff who may not want to come to work for fear of contracting COVID-19, Solorzano told ABC7 “If a patient is diagnosed today, we expect them to show up. We expect them to dig their heels in and leave their fears at home and take care of those patients. It’s okay to be scared, and we’re going to support each other through it.”

## Following the Virus

Up-to-the minute information on COVID-19 cases in the state and Contra Costa County, as well as local resources, can be found at the following links.

Lamorinda Community Information Portal: [ccc.community.zonehaven.com](http://ccc.community.zonehaven.com).  
Contra Costa Health Services: [www.coronavirus.cchealth.org](http://www.coronavirus.cchealth.org).

California Department of Public Health: <https://bit.ly/3bg4LyM>.  
Voro: <https://bit.ly/2VKxm9d>.

## Celebrate Your Graduate in Print



Congratulations to  
2020 Miramonte graduate  
Anika Shandalov.

Graduation ceremonies may not be happening this year, but celebrating your graduate is always in season.

To that end, **The Orinda News** is offering low-priced ads in our June issue. We’ll celebrate our local graduates, whether from kindergarten, middle school, high school or college, in the pull-out center section of our newspaper.

For more information on ad sizes and prices, please contact one of our ad reps:

**Kathy Enzerink**, 252-626-2109, [kathy@theorindanews.com](mailto:kathy@theorindanews.com)  
**Jill Gelster**, 925-528-9225, [jill@aspenconsult.net](mailto:jill@aspenconsult.net)  
**Elana O’Loskey**, 925-984-1751, [elanao@mac.com](mailto:elanao@mac.com).

**Reservations must be made by May 8 with photos and copy due May 11.**

Orinda Community Foundation (OCF) Presents:



Saturday morning, August 15, 2020  
Miramonte High School in Orinda, CA

Register online today: [NorCalKidsTri.org](http://NorCalKidsTri.org)

CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

# Book Club Comes to Rescue of Restaurants, Medical Workers

KATHY BOHANAN ENZERINK  
Assistant Editor

How do you help local restaurants stay open during the pandemic and feed front-line medical workers at the same time?

Tracy Ellman, an Orinda resident since 1993, said she was inspired to help, and found a way. During a virtual meeting with her book club on April 1, she presented the idea of establishing a Go Fund Me account where donations will pay local restaurateurs to prepare meals for John Muir Hospital health care workers in Walnut Creek and Concord.

The members agreed to raise \$20,000. They were motivated. Calls were made. Money started rolling in.

Ellman, along with club members Carolyn Anderson, Amy Bush, Genie Gooderault, Leslie Mariani, Tracie Nelson, Janyce Paoletti and Lori Smudsky, contacted family and friends, who in turn, reached out to their families and friends.

Within three days, their efforts gar-

nered more than \$11,000. By April 11, six days from the first donation, 163 individual donors had collectively given \$22,105 – with money still coming in. The goal is now \$50,000 with social distancing expected to be in place through mid May.

“The response has been phenomenal,” said Ellman. When speaking with Orinda restaurant owners about the project, “each and every one, across the board, said they would participate at their cost. They are not making a profit on this.”

Joe Cho, owner of Café Teatro on Orinda Way, said he is able to provide up to 150 lunches at a time. “This program definitely helps keep our doors open,” he said.

“At this point our goal is to minimize our losses and put people back to work,” said Michael Karp, owner of the Fourth Bore Tap Room and Grill. “The Go Fund Me projects bring awareness not only for meals, but we are also able to get items that folks are having trouble finding at the grocery store.”

Lunch and dinner meals, served six days

35 hour class which provides 75 percent of the requirements needed to become a certified nurse assistant. The other is an 8- to 10-hour course to train telehealth volunteers who work from home to check on vulnerable people sheltered at home, and refer them to health care providers as needed.

Others in town found their own unique ways to help.

Songstress Leslie Darwin O’Brien performed socially-distant courtyard concerts Thursday evenings for the residents of Orinda Senior Village, who watch and applaud from their balconies.

Dan Swander and wife Ann Lawrence worked tirelessly to fundraise and keep the Warm Winter Nights Shelter for displaced families intact.

Photographer Terry Riggins snapped socially-distanced “Porch Portraits” for donations to Contra Costa Food Bank.

Children decorated the empty streets with motivational chalked messages, and made signs to cheer postal and delivery workers.

“Busy hands keep me sane,” observed mask-maker Vanessa Bell.

Apparently, many others agree.

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



KATHY ENZERINK

Jim Phoonpirom, owner of Baan Thai Restaurant, prepares chicken with stir-fry vegetables.

a week, cost \$10 to \$20 each. The first 225 meals were served April 8 and 10, followed by 750 meals delivered between April 13 to 18 by restaurateurs, book club members, families and friends.

Ellman said she hopes to expand the program to include another hospital and to invite neighboring food establishments to participate.

“We will serve meals until the money runs out,” she said.

“The support provided by our local Orinda community restaurants to John Muir Health during the COVID -19 crisis is overwhelming,” said Patty Haggen, executive director of hospital operations. “Our

clinicians and staff want to make sure you know how much we appreciate the kindness, support and acknowledgment of the care we provide.”

In addition to Café Teatro and Fourth Bore, participating restaurants are: Baan Thai, Eurpoa Hof Brau, Genuine Goodness, Hanazen, Maya Mexican Grill, Petra Café, Reem’s Steaks, Republic of Cake, Saffron, Schezwan, Serika, Shelby’s, Siam Orchid, Sustainable Table and Taverna Pelligrini.

The Go Fund Me link to donate is <http://gf.me/u/xvcs38>.

Reach Kathy Enzerink at [kathy@theorindanews.com](mailto:kathy@theorindanews.com).

## ◆ MASKS from page 9

hire a group of tailors from a furloughed cut-and-sew shop in Oakland, as well as employ Joseph’s Tailoring in Lafayette, all of whom agreed to provide the labor at a deep discount.

“This way we could keep these small businesses afloat, as well as have the gowns ready quickly, as time was of the essence,” he said.

Gannett explained how fabric was sourced from Los Angeles, shipping was donated, Diablo Rapid Print provided the necessary copies of the life-sized gown patterns, and large quantities of accessories, such as elastic, currently in high demand due to its use in facial masks, was obtained. It took a different village to complete this crucial project as well.

And yet another Rotary Club, Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary, joined Volunteer Surge, an international effort to provide support to healthcare workers. The initiative provides free online training for volunteer community health workers to perform basic caretaking tasks so professionals can focus on the most acute cases.

According to Orinda Rotarian Chris Laszcz-Davis, the goal is to train 1,000,000 volunteers via two courses. One is a 30-



## Ann Sharf

Top Producer. Strong Negotiator. Proven Results.

**During such uncertain times, it's more important than ever to nurture your relationships and stay connected—and that's what makes our community so unique and extraordinary.**

Let me help you navigate through this ever changing real estate market.

(925)253-2525  
ann@annsharf.com  
www.annsharf.com  
DRE# 01156966



**Village**  
ASSOCIATES  
It's Village. Of Course.  
93 Moraga Way, Orinda

YOUR SMILE IS EVERYTHING

**MARY H. SMITH, D.D.S.**  
A Professional Corporation  
**Family & Cosmetic Dentistry**





**We are celebrating our 25th anniversary of making and maintaining beautiful smiles.**

**We always welcome new patients.**

**Our office delivers the highest quality and service.**

**Consults are always complimentary.**

NEW ADDRESS:  
1 Bates Blvd. Suite 210, Orinda, 925.254.0824



## STORAGE FOR HOME & BUSINESS

WE'LL ALL GET THROUGH THIS CRISIS TOGETHER! WE APPRECIATE YOUR PATIENCE AND ENCOURAGE YOU TO CALL FOR OUR LIMITED ACCESS HOURS. OUR FAMILY AT 5A HOPES YOU & YOUR FAMILIES STAY SAFE!

Stay in touch with us 24/7 You may access your unit by appointment. Call us for times.



455 Moraga Rd. Ste. F  
(925) 643-2060  
[www.5Aspace.com](http://www.5Aspace.com)



## Cal Shakes: Virtual Shakespeare

By SALLY HOGARTY  
Executive Editor

While the coronavirus has canceled Cal Shakes season at the Bruns Amphitheater, that doesn't mean the curtain is completely down on Shakespeare this summer.

"We may be cancelling the season but we're not cancelling our art," said Cal Shakes Artistic Director Eric Ting. "Our goal right now is to continue to play a role in the lives of our audiences."

That role takes to the internet with three programs planned that will, hopefully, continue and expand beyond the COVID-19 crisis.

The first, entitled Run the Canon, is a 37-week video lecture series with resident dramaturg Philippa Kelly highlighting a different Shakespearean play. Kelly, who runs the popular pre-show Grove Talks, will create a 10-minute video lecture each week now through Christmas as she runs through Shakespeare's 37 plays. Her program begins with one of the Bard's final plays, *The Tempest*.

#ShelterHereabouts involves a series of "micro-commissioned" classical monologues performed by local Bay Area actors. The first performance features actor Phil Wong performing a monologue from *The Tempest*.

The third program, Direct Address, includes panel discussions, interviews, podcasts and webinars offering industry and community support as well as behind-the-scenes insight. It began in early April with two unemployment webinars geared towards freelance artists and arts workers.

To access these programs, go to <https://calshakes.org/cal-shakes-online/>. Cal Shakes has also set up a fourth, audience-

involved program called These Thre3 Seconds in which people can make a 3-second video capturing a moment in their day as we shelter in place. Videos can be submitted to [now@these3seconds.com](mailto:now@these3seconds.com).

"Just because our capacity to meet has been put on pause doesn't mean the desire and need to meet doesn't continue," Ting said. "I don't think anyone was prepared to deal with what we're all dealing with right now. It's a learning experience for all of us."

Managing Director Sarah Williams acknowledges that worrying about loved ones and just going to the grocery store adds to the stress. "We're all dealing with these things and having to keep an organization afloat at the same time is a lot to do."

Williams said she was encouraged and impressed, however, by patrons' support, over half of whom have donated their subscriptions back to Cal Shakes, and others who are donating online.

"It's a real testament to the love people have for our organization and the desire to see us through this moment and to come out on the other side," she said. "I'm deeply grateful for the community that has built up around Cal Shakes over the decades. It's beautiful."

Providing the online programming not only keeps Cal Shakes' audiences engaged, it also provides a creative outlet for some of the performers. "We've been thinking about how to support our artists and our teaching artists in a way that is meaningful and beneficial to them," said Williams.

To that end, Ting has tasked Director of Artistic Learning Clive Worsley with looking at ways to shift Cal Shakes' classroom settings to a digital platform.

"It was so difficult to cancel the season knowing that so many artists and technicians would be out of work. It became



JAY YAMADA

Artistic Director Eric Ting hopes to have the Bruns Amphitheater full of people again next year.

clear that one of the communities hardest hit would be the artistic one," Ting said.

Ting began researching how Chicago and Seattle had developed an artist's relief fund. Working with a local disability rights advocate Claudia Alick, Ting decided the Bay Area could organize such a fund and that Theatre Bay Area, a local arts membership organization, should run it. "They're raising money for it every day. Hopefully, it will meet people's needs a little bit."

Some of those people include Cal Shakes own staff, many of whom had to be laid off. The company is now down to 16 people working half time and at half salary. The size of the company will continue to evolve depending upon how long the shelter-in-place remains in effect.

"There are benefits available for workers with reduced hours," Williams said. "We're researching what our employees can access

with federal and state relief. We know so much more about unemployment than we did four weeks ago."

While Ting noted the cancelation of Cal Shakes' season felt "like the destruction of the summer," he also anticipates the opportunity to evolve as an organization. "This moment is having a profound impact on our cultural institutions. I'm really looking forward to the collaborations between theaters and art institutions to lift one another up and get back into the lives of our communities," Ting said. "Cal Shakes won't be coming back to the Bruns alone. We'll be relying on the rest of our artistic community, our audiences and the many, many donors who give so generously to ensure that that space, that story continues."

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

### ◆ SCHOOLS from page 10

losing access to my colleagues, friends and loved ones."

"I then poured myself into bargaining by recreating a community for distance learning, meeting up with friends for virtual dates, and telling myself that this would give me an opportunity to spend cherished time with my children, which it has," Parks wrote.

Because the world has been glued to the news reports, educator Alison Stout took the opportunity to cultivate journalism skills in her third graders at Glorietta who put together a bi-weekly newspaper titled *Third Grade Lockdown News*.

The students contribute articles on various topics, and every few days, they get on a video conference call to discuss their articles, just like in a newsroom.

"What the students really seem to miss are the connections," said Jenny Dodd, who teaches a blended kindergarten and

first-grade class at Del Rey Elementary. She said keeping those connections intact is a primary objective.

Miramonte senior class parents, led by Orinda resident Michelle Goldsmith, attempted to cheer the soon-to-be-graduates with commemorative yard signs celebrating the Class of 2020. Parent volunteers planted a green-and-white sign in front of each home of all 320 seniors.

Nickerson and Parks both expressed a desire to create some way for the seniors to celebrate commencement as they cancelled traditions, such as Senior Ball, Baccalaureate and the emotionally charged Goodbye Rally, where faculty and staff form two lines. The seniors joyfully and often tearfully walk down the middle, hugging and thanking their teachers. After the seniors exit the gym, freshmen officially become sophomores, sophomores become juniors, juniors become seniors.

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



**Baan Thai RESTAURANT**  
Eat Healthy, Live Healthy  
ORGANIC SALADS MADE FRESH DAILY. MANY VEGETARIAN OPTIONS.  
WE COOK FROM FAMILY RECIPES.  
FOOD TO GO, CATERING & GIFT CERTIFICATES ARE AVAILABLE

**Now Offering Curb Side Pick Up**

Lunch: Mon. - Sun. 11:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.  
Dinner: Mon. - Sun. 4:30 - 9:00 p.m.  
99 Orinda Way, Orinda  
(925) 253-0989



**What's On Deck With Parks & Rec!**

**In these trying times, Orinda Parks and Rec is proud to announce our new Virtual Recreation page!**

Please visit:  
[www.cityoforinda.org/444/Virtual-Recreation](http://www.cityoforinda.org/444/Virtual-Recreation)

**Here you will find a comprehensive list of nutritional, educational and recreational activities and fun resources for all ages. We even have some virtual classes being held in real time (registration required).**

**Stay Home - Save Lives**



**ORINDA**  
PARKS & REC

Orinda Parks and Recreation Department  
925-254-2445  
[www.OrindaParksandRec.org](http://www.OrindaParksandRec.org)  
OrindaParksandRec@CityofOrinda.org  
28 Orinda Way - Orinda Community Center  
Administrative Office Hours - Monday - Friday 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

**Shellie Abbes Kirby**

Lifelong Lamorinda experience you can trust. Utilize Shellie's unique East Bay knowledge, personal attention, guidance and professionalism.

**Proven Results - Experience  
Personal Service**

Office: 925-253-6321  
Cell: 925-872-4257  
email: [shellie@shelliekirby.com](mailto:shellie@shelliekirby.com)



COLDWELL  
BANKER

## AROUND TOWN

# Everyday Orinda

The “P” in the Pool

MIMI BOMMARITO



Flashback to summer days of early childhood, frolicking in the shallow end of a crowded swimming pool while our mothers sat in the shade nearby, smoking a Belair.

Anybody ever play that game where you'd bounce on your tiptoes, down the sloping floor of the pool, inching into deeper and deeper water, face and chin upturned to the sky, enabling you to gulp, goldfish-style, for air until the last possible moment? Eventually, the water would cover your head, fill your nostrils with chlorinated pool water, and you'd backpaddle to safety.

That's exactly how I've been feeling. I'm clearly in the deeper water, missing the buoyancy and security of the shallow end.

The challenges began in October. We faced an impending city-wide power shut-down as a wildfire prevention measure. We were all edgy and inconvenienced, but in retrospect, we still had plenty of toilet paper. And, we needn't pretend to be plucky characters in a post-WWI novel in a valiant

attempt to remain unphased by shortages and bare shelves at the grocery store.

Just as the PG&E issue subsided, the horrific Halloween night Airbnb shootings occurred. The water was definitely creeping up past my earlobes now.

Fast forward to the coronavirus pandemic, the “P” in the pool. It's shoved us all into the deep end and forced us to play water polo with our big brother's obnoxious friend, the one who thinks it's funny to dunk people.

Initially I thought to highlight some of our local soldiers on the front line, the clerks at the Orinda Safeway, who we have all come to know — sadly, I'm realizing, in a very non-meaningful sort of way — over the years.

In other words, we “know” one another from avocado small-talk, but I've never asked about whether they have kids, their hometown or their favorite ice cream. And now, here they are, risking their health so we can have food on our table.

Lori, a manager, politely informed me Safeway employees are not allowed to speak to the press at this time. Although her mask covered half her face, her expressive eyes were smiling, but firm. No photographs permitted either, even if only for a salute.

Plan B was to pester BevMo in hope of obtaining an amusing quote about alcohol sales flourishing in Orinda, or perhaps discuss the new-found abundance of available parking spaces in their lot now that families are no longer pretending not to use it as a communal carpool rendezvous.

Thwarted again. At BevMo, not only are employees forbidden from speaking to the press, customers are not even allowed to step inside the store to wander the aisles and reminisce about the good-old days when we drank for pleasure.

Instead, customers must place an order online, then show up outside the store later to pick it up. I asked if I could at least scan the army of labeled, pre-packaged orders and snoop for familiar surnames of my friends. But the store clerk was not amused. So much for aggressive reporting.

I was all set to ponder additional angels on the front lines when the universe decided to offer up a suggestion, by way of my

orange tabby/pandemic coping mechanism suddenly becoming severely ill. And we are talking far more than the usual poorly-timed feline barf on the living room carpet, four minutes before Book Club arrives, PP (Pre-Pandemic).

As I rushed to make Chad comfortable and initiate a visit to front-line angel Dr. Richard Johnson at Rheem Veterinary Hospital, I had a “straw that broke the camel's back” moment, resulting in a hearty ugly cry.

This unexpected outburst ended up producing a rare, spontaneous hug from one daughter and a legitimate attempt to unload the dishwasher from another. My husband didn't even raise his usual objections to rushing off to the vet. He hails from the “wait and see” approach to veterinary intervention, advocated in 19th century *Farmer's Almanacs* and *Old Yeller*.

This day, however, in a familiar moment of coronavirus “Blursday,” he had forgotten the correct day of the week, and accidentally

ingested a double dose of blood pressure medication. He was too mellow to care.

Our cat, who we should nickname Hey because he's only friendly when he feels like it, was the poster child for my tears for many additional recent events: the draped corpses filling refrigerated trucks in New York, the infinite food lines, the staggering job losses, the students mourning the evaporation of anticipated joy, the brutal susceptibility to the virus among the elderly, the astoundingly beautiful way we have all attempted to be kind and lift each other up. The nauseating confusion of it all.

Our lives have shifted from Marco Polo to the 200-meter butterfly. Chad returns home after three days in the hospital. A heartfelt thank you to the dedicated staff at Rheem Veterinary Clinic. Strength and peace to all.

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



MIMI BOMMARITO

Dr. Richard Johnson of Rheem Veterinary Medical Hospital interacts with his feline patient Chad, while wearing a protective face mask during the COVID-19 pandemic. Many local pet owners are greatly relieved to know veterinary hospitals are deemed essential services.

## Fitness Tip of the Month

Be Creative...Mix Up Your Workouts To Avoid Injury

If you are doing cardio everyday its important to mix it up to avoid injury. Too much of one thing is not sustainable long term.

Pick 3 activities that you can do which engage different muscle groups in different ways.

Examples: Walking, Running, Biking

Try not to exceed three days a week for the same activity.

If you can only do one exercise, like walking for example, time yourself but change the terrain. Day 1: Mostly flat, Day 2: Flat and Small Hills, Day 3: Flat and Large Hills.

Watch your time improve on the harder workouts as you get in better shape.

If walking is going well you may want to take it to a jog.



For more information, contact Sheena with Living Lean personal training and eating for elite fitness at 925-360-7051 or [www.thelivingleanprogram.com](http://www.thelivingleanprogram.com).

36 Years of Experience  
No individual broker has SOLD more homes.



License# 00903367

CLARK THOMPSON  
REAL ESTATE BROKER  
VILLAGE ASSOCIATES

Office: 925.254.8585 Cell: 925.998.7898

[ct@clarkthompson.com](mailto:ct@clarkthompson.com)

[clarkthompson.com](http://clarkthompson.com)



It's Village. Of Course.

Law Offices of  
**VICTORIA  
ROBINSON  
SMITH**

“I hope that all of my friends and clients are staying healthy and active during this crisis. I'm here to help you with your contract and real estate legal needs; please email me. Stay well—Victoria”

**Real Estate Contracts  
Easements, Loans,  
Leases  
Title & Escrow**

[vrslaw@pacbell.net](mailto:vrslaw@pacbell.net)

Tel: (925) 253-1844

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

Living Lean Personal Training  
& Spin Classes  
Now Available Online!

Stuck at Home and Stuck at  
the Same Fitness Level?

Join me online for a great  
Personal Training workout  
tailored for your level!

- Light weights (optional),
- A computer,
- A small space to move.

Feel Great and Become  
Stronger, Leaner and  
VERY FIT At Home

Check us out at  
[www.livingleanprogram.com](http://www.livingleanprogram.com)  
(925) 360-7051

Fitness in A Click



living lean®  
by Sheena

AROUND TOWN

# CAR TIME

Finding the Good in Uncertain Times

By JOHN VANEK 

We are going through a worldwide crisis that we have never seen in our lifetimes.

COVID-19 has affected everyone in the Lamorinda area in one way or another. Our daily routines have changed. Most people are staying home as part of shelter-in-place, and a majority of businesses are closed.

I've also heard folks speaking about bright spots in this unprecedented pandemic lock-in. Families and friends are spending more time talking, thanks to video chatting. Board games are back in fashion and family meals are once again a thing.

We are hiking and walking the dog now. Simple behavior is happening and that is a good thing.

But people do need to get to the store and to the doctor, and some of us, still need to get to work. Cars still break down or get a flat tire. We're here if that happens.

As a transportation related business, Orinda Motors is considered essential, and we have new policies to help keep everyone

safe. We have instituted new protocols for picking up vehicles and preparing them for service which reduces contact.

Like other Lamorinda businesses, ours has slowed down considerably during this time with our team members rotating days off. But be assured that there will always be a dedicated staff member to help you with a repair.

Our Classic Car department also remains open so vintage vehicle owners can have repairs performed as well. We know what these old cars mean to our customers. You can call it nostalgia, but these cars make their owner's happy. When the sun is out, they can drive to the pharmacy or go get an ice cream in their beautiful American classic and it makes them feel good.

And we could all use a little bit more of that these days.


*John Vanek is the manager of Orinda Motors, Inc. He can be reached at john@orindamotors.com.*

◆ **WEEDERS** from page 8  
in late March and continue through the end of Cal Shakes' final play in the fall to tend to the site. But given the coronavirus and the cancellation of plays, the energetic gardeners are in limbo while the weeds continue to flourish.

"Most likely, we are not going to be working up at Cal Shakes before June, when we hope the restrictions will be eased," said member Ellen Dale. "We have

to wait until we get clearance from the county health department to start work."

Cal Shakes Managing Director Sarah Williams couldn't agree more. "We love Will's Weeders and are always looking to recruit more. But we're not going to do anything until the shelter in place is lifted," said Williams. "Once we can get back out there, Ellen will marshal the crew. It will probably be a bit of a jungle by then."



## POLICE BLOTTER

March 1 through April 11

**Calls for Service**  
 911 Hangup: 3 incidents.  
 Abandoned Vehicle: 1 incident.  
 Accident Injury: 1 incident.  
 Accident Property: 1 incident.  
 Alarm, False: 16 incidents.  
 Animal Control PD Support: 1 incident.  
 Assault, Simple: 1 incident.  
 Battery: 2 incidents.  
 Burglary, Auto: 2 incidents.  
 Burglary, Commercial: 1 incident.  
 Burglary, Residential: 5 incidents.  
 Civil Disturbance: 1 incident.  
 CVC Moving Violation: 14 incidents.  
 CVC Non-Moving Violation: 22 incidents.  
 Death Non Criminal: 1 incident.  
 Disturbing the Peace: 1 incident.  
 Failure to Obey: 1 incident.  
 Fraud: 3 incidents.  
 Grand Theft: 2 incidents.  
 Hit & Run Misdemeanor: 1 incident.  
 Identity Theft: 3 incidents.  
 Juvenile Disturbance: 1 incident.  
 Litter: 2 incidents.  
 Loud Music: 2 incidents.  
 Loud Noise: 1 incident.  
 Loud Party: 1 incident.  
 Mentally Ill Commit: 1 incident.  
 Missing Adult: 1 incident.  
 Outside Assist: 7 incidents.  
 Parking Detail: 11 incidents.  
 Patrol Request: 29 incidents.  
 Public Nuisance: 1 incident.

Reckless Driving: 5 incidents.  
 School Check: 17 incidents.  
 Security Check: 10 incidents.  
 Service to Citizen: 49 incidents.  
 Shoplifting: 1 incident.  
 Suspicious Subject: 4 incidents.  
 Suspicious Vehicle: 1 incident.  
 Suspicious Vehicle Stop: 3 incidents.  
 Tow: 1 incident.  
 Traffic Collision/Property Damage: 3 incidents.  
 Traffic Hazard: 2 incidents.  
 Unwanted Guest: 1 incident.  
 Vacation House Check: 1 incident.  
 Vandalism: 3 incidents.  
 Verbal Dispute: 7 incidents.  
 Violation of Domestic Order: 1 incident.  
 Walk Through: 5 incidents.  
 Welfare Check: 3 incidents.

**Arrest**  
 Recovery of Stolen Vehicle: 1 recoveries.  
 Warrant Arrest: 7 arrests.

**BART Statistics**  
 No incidents reported.

– Compiled by David Dierks  
 Assistant Editor

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

Dale noted she is happy to be contacted by prospective "weeders" at any time. "The longer we have to wait, the more help we'll need to take care of everything. We often joke that people don't think about how nice the grounds look. But, if we stopped working, they would definitely notice!"

According to Dale, Will's Weeders was born when Midge Zischke and her friends from the Orinda Garden Club volunteered to make the new theater grounds look nice before the first opening night at the Bruns

in 1991. "Some of the original group are still members, but we're always happy to have new people join in," Dale said. "Volunteers don't have to come every Tuesday or stay for the full two hours. We're happy to have them for any length of time."

For information on joining Will's Weeders, contact Dale at [ellendale44@outlook.com](mailto:ellendale44@outlook.com).

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

# ORINDA MOTORS INC.

Extends our appreciation and prayers to all veterans of the United States Armed Forces



## REMEMBER AND HONOR OUR FALLEN HEROES. THEY SERVED TO PROTECT OUR FREEDOMS.



**ORINDA MOTORS**  
**(925) 254-2012**



**WE ARE OPEN FOR BUSINESS AND READY TO SERVE!**



Approved Auto Repair



**Orinda**  
AUTO RENTAL



**ORINDA CLASSIC CAR CENTER**  
**(925) 254-5454**

**63 Orinda Way, Orinda, CA 94563 | [orindamotors.com](http://orindamotors.com)**

## CLUB MEETINGS / ARTS

## Club Meetings in May

While most clubs are not meeting during shelter-in-place, others offer Zoom meetings. Use contact info to find out.

**American Association of University Women – Orinda Moraga Lafayette Branch (AAUW-OML).** No general meeting this month. See <https://oml-ca.aauw.net>.

**Diablo Star Chapter #214.** Order of the Eastern Star. Second Monday, 7:30 p.m. 9 Altarinda Road, Orinda Masonic Lodge, 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 Drum Circle** Zoom meeting. First Monday from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Enjoy learning to drum in a small-group environment. Drums are provided. Lamorinda Music, 81 Lafayette Circle, Lafayette. Suggested donation \$10-\$20. <https://www.meetup.com/PacificDrumCircles>

**Lamorinda Meditation Community.** Mondays and Thursdays, 10:30 a.m., Career Wisdoms Institute, 1036 Country Club Drive, Moraga. All levels and philosophies welcome. \$5 donation for the use of space. Contact Gaby for more details: [gcmoozee@gmail.com](mailto:gcmoozee@gmail.com).

**Lamorinda Movers.** [www.lamorindamovers.org](http://www.lamorindamovers.org) or call Vicki Nakamura 925-708-1915. No meetings in May.

**Lamorinda Nature Walk and Bird Watching for seniors.** Wednesdays, 9 a.m., free. Call 925-254-2445 for weekly meeting information.

**Lamorinda Republican Women Federated.** Third Thursday. For more information, search Facebook for Lamorinda Republican Women Federated or go to [www.lamorindarepublicanwomen.org](http://www.lamorindarepublicanwomen.org). Contact Elsie Euing at [ejeuing@comcast.net](mailto:ejeuing@comcast.net) or 925-254-8617.

**Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary.** Until further notice, all weekly meetings will be conducted via Zoom video conferencing. We will resume our regular meetings at the Lafayette Park Hotel when conditions permit. [www.lamorindasunrise.com](http://www.lamorindasunrise.com) or [lamorindasunrise@gmail.com](mailto:lamorindasunrise@gmail.com). Meetings: May 1, 7 a.m. - Learn how Augmented Reality is about to revolutionize surgery. speaker Dr. Nadine Hachach-Haram. May 8, 7 a.m. - Lauren Puffaf, Cofounder of Feed.fm discusses music's impact on our brains and bodies, the science behind curation and music taste, and look at how our listening has changed in the streaming era. May 15, 7 a.m. - Nick Wong and his team from UC Berkeley use amazing

technology to help care for elderly family members in an innovative way.

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

**Montelindo Garden Club.** Third Friday, Sept. through May. Lafayette Library and Learning Center's Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

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

**Orinda Garden Club,** 315 Camino Sobrante, Orinda 925-257-0668, [www.orindagc.org](http://www.orindagc.org).

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

**Orinda Historical Society.** Call 925-254-1353 for times and location of meetings. Open to public on Wednesdays, 1-4 p.m.

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

**Orinda Junior Women's Club.** First Tuesday, 7 p.m., September through June. Orinda residents socializing and giving back to the community. [www.orindajuniors.org](http://www.orindajuniors.org).

**Orinda Masonic Lodge #122 F&AM.** First Thursday, except holidays. Family dinner at 6:30 p.m., meeting at 8 p.m., 9 Altarinda Road, Orinda Masonic Center. 925-254-5211, [www.orindalodge.org](http://www.orindalodge.org).

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

**Orinda Satellite Rotary Club.** Second Wednesday. Call Sylvia at 510-224-8548.

**Orinda/Tábor (Czech Republic) Sister City Foundation.** Fourth Thursday, 7 p.m., social, 7:30 p.m. meeting. For more information, 925-254-8260.

**Orinda Teen Advisory Council** – First Tuesday of every month at 4 p.m. Community Center, 28 Orinda Way, email Recreation Coordinator Matt Delmartini at [cityoforinda.org](mailto:cityoforinda.org) with questions.

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

**Road Runners.** Runners meet 5:45 a.m. Tuesday at Papilion (67 Lafayette Circle, Lafayette), Wednesday (Gepettos 87 Orinda Way, Orinda), Thursday (SiSI, 910 Country Club Drive, Moraga) and Friday (Starbucks, 470 Moraga Road, Rheem). For more information contact John Fazel, [runmtns@prodigy.net](mailto:runmtns@prodigy.net).

**Sons in Retirement Lamorinda Branch** 174. Second Wednesday, 11 a.m. lunch. Holy Trinity Culture Center 1700 School St., Moraga. A social organization of retired and semi-retired men who enjoy leisure time with friends and activities. For info., call Tyler at 925-963-5741, [www.branch174.sirinc2.org](http://www.branch174.sirinc2.org).

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



## THE REEL LESS TRAVELED

## IN THE DARKEST OF TIMES

Tom Westlake



With both local movie houses still shuttered, I was unsettled at the prospect of writing this column, having not one single movie to talk about.

I considered the possibility of becoming a movie advice columnist although I'm not quite sure how that would be implemented. The basic idea would be for readers to write in and ask me the sort of movie you'd like to pass the time with while sequestered away.

You'd need to give me some basic idea of the sort of thing you're looking for, and I'd do my best to recommend something. The bonus here would be that I will probably steer you toward something a little more obscure (the title of this column is *The Reel Less Traveled*, after all.) So instead of *Contagion* or *Outbreak*, for example, I would recommend something like *The Andromeda Strain* or *On the Beach*.

With that said, it's not as bad as I might have led you to believe. Just because there isn't one or two specific movies to talk about doesn't mean there aren't movies to enjoy.

Indeed, there are two sources to view films from the comfort of home, the first and most notable being the International Film Showcase.

Efi and Jo Alice, ever on the forefront when bringing the finest films from overseas, also are offering their films in a streaming format. This is great on several levels. Although all of the films offered already have had their theatrical run, now is your chance to view them again. And to those who may have missed them, now's your chance to make up for it.

Go to [www.internationalshowcase.org](http://www.internationalshowcase.org) to see what is available.

Our local libraries are another source. Even though Contra Costa County libraries are closed, they are making their streaming content, including films and documentaries, available online at [cclib.org](http://cclib.org). All you need is a library card! How cool is that?

So, you see, it's not a total loss. There's still plenty to keep you entertained.

I'm also going to change my parting words a little as we are living in dark times. So instead I urge all of you to keep looking towards those beautiful flickering lights and the pictures they cast. That's where the reel magic lies.

Tom Westlake can be reached at [poppin-jay@earthlink.net](mailto:poppin-jay@earthlink.net).

McCaulou's

and

Hollyhock

always

FREE Gift Wrap!

on items 15.00

or more.

Orinda Village Square

PROFESSIONAL  
PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

CA BRE 01902148

SPECIAL FULL MGMT only \$125.00

Leasing • Rentals • Management

Residential | Commercial | Retail

LAMORINDA SPECIALIST

925-254-5636 ppm4rent.com

Serving the East Bay Area

\*Restrictions apply - Ad must be presented at time of signing.

## The Murphy Team

Leaders in Lamorinda Real Estate



www.MurphyTeamRE.com

Karen Murphy

(925)788-6322

karen.villageassociates@gmail.com

License #00699318

Hillary Murphy

(415)309-5061

hillary@murphyteamre.com

License#01967218

UNLEVEL FLOORS? DOORS STICKING?

Call &amp; mention this promotion and receive

10% OFF  
UP TO \$1,000.00

Bay Area LIC#867128

UNDERPINNING

707-310-0602

FOUNDATION SETTLEMENT?

WE CAN HELP!

www.BayAreaUnderpinning.com



BUSINESS BUZZ

## Business Buzz Putting a Personal Face on Local Business

Elana O’Loskey



### Relentless Investigative

Norm Sokalski has been licensed as an investigator for almost 30 years although he is also a non-practicing attorney.

His company, Relentless Investigative (RI), has clients across the United States, Europe and Asia. Over time, Sokalski has helped many clients in Lamorinda in three principal areas: finding hidden assets in divorce cases; due diligence for potential investments and collection of judgments.

With such an ubiquitous name, a description of typical RI activities is in order. Discovering hidden assets in divorce cases is self-explanatory: locating assets a dishonest spouse has purposefully hidden. Easier said than done, of course.

Due diligence for potential investments involves verifying the claims of the investment opportunity; RI helps the client make better decisions and avoid fraud. “Good,

bad and fraudulent investments all typically pencil out,” said Sokalski, who lives with his family in Lamorinda.

As to collection of lawful judgments, RI has seized assets for clients throughout the United States, South America, Europe and Asia.

Sokalski’s background is commercial banking as a loan-risk analyst. He discovered a fraud conspiracy involving officers of a bank and commercial borrowers. As a result of this discovery and further investigation, he moved from risk analysis to fraud prevention within the bank.

He went on to obtain a law degree. After he left the bank he worked in the merger and acquisitions department of a major S.F. law firm before starting his own company.

Sokalski often is on the run but you can catch up with his virtual office by calling 510-703-7721, emailing info@relentless-investigative.com or visiting www.relentlessinvestigative.com.

### Family and Cosmetic Dentistry

Dr. Mary Smith’s newly built offices at 1 Bates Blvd. #210, are intentionally calming with noise cancellation headphones for TV or music, massage chairs and neck pillows.

Outside there is ample parking and easy accessibility. Once socializing safely is possible, an open house is planned to introduce people to the space.

Smith commuted from Orinda to the University of Pacific Dental School for her last two years; this was part of her plan. “Knowing that I wanted children at some

point, I thought living and working in the same city would allow me to be a mother and have a career in dentistry at the same time. My plan has worked out beautifully,” said Smith, who has served the dental needs of the community for 25 years.

Smith’s career began in Walnut Creek where she worked as a dental associate for five years. In 2000, it was time to purchase her own practice in Orinda. “From the very beginning I learned that a good practice starts with a solid team. I have had the great pleasure to work with many of my current employees for over 20 years. Each year, I look forward to planning annual vacations for my staff so we can have fun together team bonding,” she said.

Team members include Cecelia Thomas, D.D.S., associate; Tina Stordahl, registered dental assistant (RDA); Ena Alvarenga, dental assistant; Susan Evans, RDA, Lori Nott, registered dental hygienist; and front office staff Maria Sanchez and Jackie Perez Medina.

Thomas notes the practice has the latest in technology, including Cerec-single visit crowns, Zoom instant teeth whitening, Invisalign clear braces, laser technology, and



Dr. Mary Smith

digital X-rays.

Smith can be reached at 925-254-0824, mary@marysmithdds.com or via the web at www.marysmithdds.com. Once the shelter-in-place order is rescinded regular office hours will be 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Thursday and one Friday a month.

To send items for consideration, email Elana O’Loskey at business.orinda@gmail.com.



Norm Sokalski

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

### ◆ BUSINESS from page 1

minutes.

Pharmacies at CVS, Rite-Aid and the Medicine Shoppe offer free delivery in Orinda.

Seniors Around Town (SAT) pairs volunteer drivers/shoppers with Orinda seniors unable to do their own grocery shopping or run errands in town. Seniors in need of help and volunteers may call 925-402-4056 or email seniorsaroundtownorinda@gmail.com to sign up.

Earlier this year, Drs. Kristine Eng and Kelly Shintani at Orinda Optometry Group added EyecareLive, a virtual clinic, to their practice.

“Luckily, we were up and running prior to the shelter-in-place order,” said Eng. “We are able to diagnose a lot of situations, including pink and red eye infections. The timing was perfect.”

Having the ability to perform virtual screenings helps keep patients safe, sanitary and decreases visits to urgent care facilities, said Eng. The office is closed but appointments can be made for eye ware adjustments.

“We are grateful to have the telemedicine technology and plan to keep it as part of our regular practice,” said Eng.

Orinda Books launched what it called White Glove Delivery – a free service to customers in Lamorinda and Rossmoor who order by phone or via

OrindaBooks.com. “We would rather be open but understand the need to stop the spread of the virus,” said owner Pat Rudesbusch.

Considered essential, auto repair shops can remain open in addition to gas stations. Business has slowed at Orinda Motors and Orinda Shell Auto Care, where both facilities have made staffing adjustments. Essential service includes overdue mileage maintenance and repairing cars which are not drivable for commuters, according to Kathy Mitchell, owner of Shell Auto Care. Protective gloves and disinfectant cleaning are standard at both establishments.

McDonnell’s Nursery is taking phone and online orders for curbside pickup. The nursery is open Wednesdays through Sundays with inventory replenished weekly.

“As we evolve, we are creating solutions to keep your garden growing and your surroundings beautiful,” said owner Sarah McDonnell.

Kathy Enzerink can be reached at kathy@theorindanews.com.

### Check in with Chambers

For information on businesses and other updates during shelter in place, contact your local Chamber of Commerce: OrindaChamber.org; Lafayette-Chamber.org; MoragaChamber.org.



*CYNTHIA NOLAN, OWNER*

## All-Women Company Serving East Bay Residents for Over 20 Years

### COMPLETE MOVE & COORDINATION SPECIALISTS

★ CALL FOR A FREE CONSULTATION ★

### FULL PACKING & UNPACKING SERVICES

**PACKING SERVICE INCLUDES:**  
meticulous packing, labeling, help with what to keep, toss, donate, consign

**UNPACKING SERVICE INCLUDES:**  
placing furniture, setting up kitchen, organizing closets, cupboards and drawers

Insured, Bonded, and Green

Nominated by SCORE  
for Outstanding  
Woman-Owned Small Business

**925.330.1988**  
hello@carefreemoves.net  
www.carefreemoves.net



## Coming Again to Orinda This Fall!

### September 12th, 2020



If you have an interest in becoming a sponsor for this event contact [BillWaterman@OrindaCarShow.com](mailto:BillWaterman@OrindaCarShow.com)  
If you want show info or to enter a car or motorcycle go to [www.OrindaCarShow.com](http://www.OrindaCarShow.com)