



THE ORINDA NEWS

Gratis
Volume 38, Number 4

www.theorindanews.com
Delivered to 9,000 Households and Businesses in Orinda

12 Issues Annually
April 2023

Big Plans for Former Bank of America Building

■ Developer Envisions Restaurants, Offices and Pleasant Gathering Places

By ANDREA MADISON
Staff Writer

Wilder resident Ben Zarrin's love of the Orinda community is the driving force behind his visions for the former Bank of America Financial Center at 31 Orinda Way.

Zarrin teamed up with his friend and neighbor, Mo Mashoon, owner of Mash Gas & Food, to purchase the vacant building. They are combining their extensive experience in business, real estate, design and construction to "create a place where great memories, life, positive energy and good times are born and everlasting," according to Zarrin.

"The timing worked out well for us," said Zarrin, founder of Paymun Real Estate, Design and Development. This bank branch, next to the post office, closed in March 2022.

Opportunities offered due to the va-



RENDERING COURTESY OF BEN ZARRIN

The proposed renovation at 31 Orinda Way will turn the former Bank of America space into three restaurants at ground level and add a second story for office space. The restaurants will share a rear deck on the first level, facing San Pablo Creek and projected to feature a bar and seating for 28 patrons.

cancy of the circa-1964 building excited Zarrin as the availability of commercial space in Orinda is limited. Zarrin conceptualizes a two-story structure with office space occupying the second level along with a 1,717-square-foot deck.

The proposed renovation will add square footage to the ground-level for three collocated restaurants, which will share a rear deck with restaurant seating and a bar facing San Pablo Creek. The deck is one of the first attempts within the city to orient activity toward the creek, according to the planning commission.

The addition of a second-story designed for office use with multiple decks, including one elevated deck, is proposed and subject to review.

The project received support from Friends of Orinda Creeks (FOC), a charitable, nonprofit organization working to preserve and restore Orinda's watersheds and educate the community about the care and ecology of the creeks. Along with cleaning the creeks and planting native riparian species, FOC works alongside the City of Orinda to align the restoration of San Pablo Creek with the Downtown Precise Plan.

"We're excited about it, like everyone else is," said Tom MacKinnon, Orinda resident and FOC board member.

There is enthusiasm for the project, both in the community and among the planning commission members which unanimously approved the plan, with some conditions, in its February 14 meeting. The

[SEE 31 ORINDA page 4]



CHARLEEN EARLEY

Robert Brock, with wife Jessica Brock, appeared at the Superior Court in Martinez on Feb. 21. Brock was arrested for felony vandalism of an Orinda Police car on Jan. 27, based on a statement from the Orinda Police Department. Brock's name was not on the docket and he received a letter in the mail dated Feb. 24, stating "A review of our records shows no criminal complaint was issued against the above-noted individual based on the incident described in the Contra Costa County Sheriff's Department ... the [statute] of limitations has not yet passed, so this case could still be filed."

DA Decides Not to Prosecute in Vandalism Case

By CHARLEEN EARLEY
Editor-in-Chief

"It wasn't me, I didn't vandalize a police car," Robert Brock said he repeatedly told Orinda police officers on Jan. 27, the day he was arrested with a felony charge of vandalizing a police vehicle parked in the Orinda BevMo! lot.

Arrested and handcuffed, Brock was processed at the Martinez Detention Center where photos and fingerprints were taken, clothes removed and his cellphone held for evidence. His laptop was previously confiscated during questioning with Brock's consent.

The Orinda Police Department (OPD) filed their investigation results on Feb. 16 to the District Attorney's (D.A.) Office. On

[SEE BROCK page 7]

Paws to Read at Library



JEFF HEYMAN

The Orinda Library's "Paws to Read" program, where children in grades 1-5 read with dogs certified for their sociable natures, has resumed after a three-year hiatus. Paloma (L) and her sister Phoebe, read to Ace. Visit <https://ccclib.org/>, click on events and choose the Orinda location to see dates and times to register for the program.

IN THIS ISSUE

News		Community	1, 2, 11, 12, 16, 22, 23
Civic	4, 5	Classifieds	19
Crime/Police	1, 6	Editorial	6
Students/Schools	5, 7, 10, 16, 17	Everyday Orinda	10
Around Town		First Friday Forum	11
Art Scene	20	Letters to the Editor	6
Events	14, 16, 22	Meet Your Neighbor	24
News Briefs	2	Performing Arts	12, 16, 17
Residents	23, 24	Pet of the Month	23
Business Buzz	21	Seasoned Shopper	15
Calendar & Clubs	18	The Orinda Association	3, 8, 9
Car Time	19		

Find these stories and more on our website www.theorindanews.com.

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

POSTAL CUSTOMER
*****EGRWSSDDM*****



Mash Gas & Food

Orinda's Lowest Gas Prices
Buy Lotto & Lottery Here

Self Service Gasoline	
	CASH CREDIT
Regular Unleaded	3.89 ⁹ / ₁₀ 3.99 ⁹ / ₁₀
Plus Unleaded	4.19 ⁹ / ₁₀ 4.29 ⁹ / ₁₀
Premium Unleaded	4.29 ⁹ / ₁₀ 4.39 ⁹ / ₁₀

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

NEWS BRIEFS / CARTOON

Orinda Around Town: News Briefs

Poul Anderson Creative Writing Competition Deadline is April 14

The Friends of the Orinda Library announce the 2023 Poul Anderson Creative Writing Competition, which is open to all students who reside or attend high school in Orinda. Entry categories are Science Fiction/Fantasy, Essay/Memoir/Biography, Poetry and Short Story. Students may submit one item in any of the categories for a maximum of three entries. Submission deadline is midnight, April 14.

Entries are judged by a local panel who are involved professionally in reading, writing or publishing. Awards go to the best-judged works, not necessarily one award per category. Up to four winners will each receive \$500 at the end of the school year, underwritten by the Friends of the Orinda Library. The winning entries will be posted on the Friends' website.

The contest is named in honor of the late Poul Anderson, a popular science-fiction writer and Orinda resident, who was a true friend to the community for 40 years.

Submit entries in PDF or Word formats with a contest entry form as attachments to an email. Additional instructions are on the entry form. Visit <https://bit.ly/3JvrGc1>.

Frank Isola Rotary Field Day is Back

Rotary Club of Orinda partners with the Miramonte Track Team for the 70th Frank Isola Rotary Field Day for third to fifth graders at Miramonte Stadium, April 22 from 8 a.m. - noon. Field Day, which falls on Earth Day this year, is the longest Orinda tradition which gives older students the opportunity to volunteer and work with younger kids – and the younger kids get their first taste of being a “Big Kid” on the Miramonte track. For more information, visit www.orindafieldday.org or email rotarycluboforinda@gmail.com.

Successful 20th Annual Crab Feed

Rotary Club of Orinda's 20th annual crab feed fundraiser was a success.

“It was our smoothest drive-thru crab feed yet, despite the occasional rain,” said Clay Deanhardt, Rotary member. “We raised close to \$4,000 to support Rotary



Miramonte High School Interact Club volunteer, **Ethan Lee**, delivers a dinner to former Mayor and Council Member **Amy Worth** at the 20th annual crab feed fundraiser on March 7, sponsored by the Rotary Club of Orinda and partnered with Casa Orinda Restaurant and **Mike Lucas** of Costa Norte, Inc.



projects in the community.”

The sold-out event, which partnered with Casa Orinda Restaurant and Mike Lucas of Costa Norte, Inc., supports Orinda businesses and nonprofit organizations, the Food Bank of Contra Costa & Solano Counties, Meals on Wheels and other Bay Area services. Thanks to those who bought the 204 dinners, our sponsors, Rotarian and fundraiser organizer Melissa Roeder, Rotarians, volunteers and Interact Club members of Miramonte High School.

DeSaulnier Announces 2023 Congressional Art Competition for Students

Congressman Mark DeSaulnier (CA-10) is hosting the 2023 Congressional Art Competition. High school artists living in California's 10th Congressional District may submit original artwork to DeSaulnier's office virtually through April 17. The winning piece, selected by local judges, will be announced at a reception following the deadline.

“The creativity and talent shown by

the students in our district never fails to amaze me,” wrote DeSaulnier in a press release. “I am looking forward to hosting this competition once again and seeing all of this year's wonderful submissions.”

The victorious artwork will be displayed in the U.S. Capitol and the successful artist is invited to Washington D.C. to attend a national reception honoring winners from around the country. Submissions must be emailed to Kaylee.deland@mail.house.gov no later than 5 p.m., April 17.

The nationwide competition recognizes and encourages artistic talent in each congressional district across the nation. Since 1982, more than 650,000 high school students have participated. For complete contest guidelines and submissions forms, visit <https://desaulnier.house.gov/services/congressional-art-competition>. For more information or help submitting artwork, call 925.933.2660.

Compiled by Charleen Earley, who can be reached at editor@theorindanews.com.



The Murphy Team: 35 Years Selling Orinda

\$100M+ in Recent Transactions

Downsizing Experts

2 Top Agents, 1 Seamless Team

50/50 Buyer/Seller Representation

Stand-Out Staging for Every Listing

ONE Orinda Platinum Donor



Hillary Murphy (415)309-5061 | hillary@MurphyTeamRE.com

Karen Murphy (925)788-6322 | karen.villageassociates@gmail.com

THE ORINDA ASSOCIATION

A Message From the Board

The Orinda Association Celebrates 77 Years Promoting and Organizing Volunteerism

KATE WILEY



April 17-21 is national volunteer week, but at The Orinda Association, one week is not enough. We honor and celebrate volunteers every day, 365 days a year.

This month we shine a light on individuals and groups who inspire us to serve and the impact they have in our community. Our programs and events simply would not exist without the help of volunteers.

Publishing a volunteer list is a very risky venture because we know we have missed some names. This is not a result of carelessness. Instead it's because sometimes volunteers just show up at the right place and time, help where they can and then quietly go home – never asking for anything. These selfless people know the benefits they receive by volunteering.

In addition to their daily responsibilities, people continue to seek ways to make a difference in the community where they live.

Volunteering makes people feel fulfilled, helps develop social and professional skills and boosts self-esteem. Many older people who volunteer say it helps give them a feeling of importance, connection and value.

When youth volunteer, it helps redirect their focus away from self and onto others.

Nonprofits need people from all walks of life and at every stage of life, from leadership board positions to boots on the ground. Every volunteer effort leaves an impression on someone's life, including their own.

The effect of volunteering for Seniors

Around Town equates to 1,208 free rides annually for Orinda seniors to medical appointments, errands or social events. Volunteering for the 4th of July parade, the Orinda Classic Car show or with other local groups, helps bring events to Orinda which all residents can enjoy with family and friends.

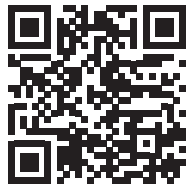
Bringing the community together makes a healthier, vibrant Orinda.

Time spent volunteering at schools shows children how important their education is, when one takes valuable time to be there. Strong community-supported schools help not just students and families, but longtime residents.

Volunteering is the thread that keeps Orinda thriving.

Add your name to this list of volunteers on page 8, you never know what your influence will be. Go to <https://orindaassociation.org/volunteer> or call 925.254.0800 and let us know where you want to make a difference.

Kate Wiley can be reached at kate@orindaassociation.org.



QR Code for volunteering

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.

OFFICERS

President - Sally Hogarty
Vice President - Kelly Sopak
Secretary - Eloise Sotelo
Treasurer - Cindy Powell
City Council Liaison -Latika Malkani

BOARD MEMBERS

Carlos Baltodano
Barb Brawner
Jacalyn Buettner
Chris Laszcz-Davis
Marianne Moser
Grace Paik
Bill Waterman
Lauren White
Kate Wiley



The Orinda Association
26 Orinda Way (Library Plaza)
P.O. Box 97
Orinda, CA 94563
Phone: 925.254.0800
www.OrindaAssociation.org

All officers and board members volunteer their time.

Client Centered. Results Focused. Experience the Difference.



Christina Linezo
REALTOR®
415.425.3085
Christina@christinalinezo.com
ChristinaLinezo.com

Orinda Network Education PLATINUM SPONSOR
Village ASSOCIATES
CHRISTINA LINEZO

DRE 01964989



CHARLIE JARRETT

Dozens honored Sally Hogarty at her retirement party on March 8 at the Orinda Library's Garden Room, for her 29 years of service working for The Orinda News, first as staff writer, onto editor-in-chief and her final years as executive editor. (L-R) The Orinda Association members Cindy Powell and Kate Wiley present Hogarty (middle) with a memory photo album filled with photographs and special notes written by those who worked with her at the non-profit community newspaper.

Back Yard Office or Guest House



- Studio/Gym
- Site-Built with Deck
- No Permit Required
- Ready in 3 Weeks!



www.GreenSheds.net 925-872-3187

Student T-shirt Design CONTEST 2023

THE ORINDA ASSOCIATION 4TH JULY

Open to Lamorinda students K to 7th Grade

3 COLORS: RED WHITE BLUE

Winner receives \$100 & winning design will be the Official T-shirt for 4th of July

HOW

- ART MUST BE SUBMITTED ON 8 1/2" BY 11" PAPER USING ONLY THREE COLORS: RED, WHITE AND BLUE
- THE ART MUST BE HAND DRAWN, NO DIGITAL ART WILL BE ACCEPTED.
- MUST INCLUDE THE WORDS: ORINDA, 4TH OF JULY AND 2023

SUBMISSION DEADLINE APR 15
WINNER ANNOUNCED MAY 7

WWW.ORINDAASSOCIATION.ORG/TSHIRT FOR ENTRY FORM AND CONTEST RULES

FOJTSHIRT@ORINDAASSOCIATION.ORG

CIVIC NEWS

State Senator Steve Glazer Holds In-Person Town Hall

By KATHY CORDOVA
Executive Editor

On Feb. 22, State Sen. Steve Glazer, D-Orinda, held his first in-person town hall since 2019. Glazer switched to virtual meetings after the pandemic hit in 2020, holding 20 during the last three years.

Glazer, an Orinda resident and former mayor, represents Senate District 07, comprising the majority of Contra Costa County and parts of Alameda County. Approximately 90 constituents from Orinda, Moraga and Lafayette filled the Orinda Library Auditorium.

After a brief introduction by Mayor Inga Miller, Glazer quickly engaged the audience by polling them on subjects as varied as to where they got their news (print vs. the internet), who graduated from college in four years and who had booked a hotel online by mistake and then couldn't get a refund.

In a PowerPoint presentation which

lauded his legislative achievements, Glazer tied these diverse topics together as he introduced new goals.

In 2022, Glazer's authored legislation which accomplished the following:

- Disqualifies local government officials from voting on development projects if they receive \$250 or more in contributions from the developers.
- Funds \$25 million to a journalism program.
- Requires businesses to provide honest information in lending options.
- Provides record funding to education, childcare and universal pre-K and universal school meals.

The senator also voted for bills addressing climate change, housing and mental health, as well as setting aside a record amount in California's rainy-day reserve.

Among Glazer's 2023 legislative priorities are promoting programs to help students graduate from California State Universities within four years, in part by connecting underrepresented students with

advising and counseling.

He told the audience four-year graduation rates at CSU campuses have climbed from 19% in 2014 to 35% in 2022, with a goal of 40% in 2025.

Four-year graduation rates for University of California campuses are 73%.

Another key legislative goal is to pass consumer protection, which will require lodging services to display upfront the total cost of the stay, including all added fees and to provide 24-hour hotel booking cancellation with a full refund.

After Glazer's presentation, he took questions from the audience, addressing wildfire prevention, school funding, crime and other issues of local importance.

Glazer's upcoming town halls:

April 13 in Brentwood with Assemblymember Grayson

April 20 in Walnut Creek with Assemblymember Bauer-Kahan

April 27 in Pittsburg with Assemblymember Grayson



KATHY CORDOVA
State Senator **Steve Glazer** addresses constituents at a town hall meeting in Orinda on Feb. 22.

For more information, reach Senator Glazer at 925.258.1176 or <https://sd07.senate.ca.gov/>.

Kathy Cordova can be reached at cordova@theorindanews.com.

◆ 31 ORINDA from page 1

proposed project's lack of public access to the creek, except through restaurant patron-oriented spaces, is a "real concern," said MacKinnon during a recent public hearing.

Commenting upon the popularity of the trail adjacent to the creek, MacKinnon asked, on FOC's behalf, for the applicant, listed as Orinda Way, LLC, to include creek access from one or both access points in a revised proposal.

"We hope in turning toward the creek, the creek isn't privatized and that the public isn't prevented from enjoying it," said Michael Bowen, president of FOC.

The proposed back deck area will wrap around two protected oak trees, preserving and maintaining them. One Coast Live Oak tree, situated directly behind the building, is in declining health and is slated for removal.

Another hurdle to clear before the project comes to fruition is an exception for an increase to the building's nonconforming encroachment into the minimum side-yard setbacks. An outdoor dining permit for a proposed 28 seats must also be granted before a building permit can be issued.

In putting the redevelopment proposal together, Paymun contacted over 40 restaurant owners. Possible on-site services mentioned in the proposal include a coffee shop, dining and cocktail options and a

brewery. Zarrin expressed a desire to attract tenants which would host social and fitness activities.

"We've hand selected our tenants so we ensure they all have similar visions and values in creating a place where diversity, equality, inclusion, strong culture, quality service, quality food, good vibes and great energy exists," said Zarrin. They are in the midst of contract negotiations with the tenants and will be able to disclose their names once they are completed.

Zarrin believes The Paymun Building will change downtown Orinda.

"It's going to be a place where good things happen," said Zarrin.

Andrea Madison can be reached at drea.madison.05@gmail.com.



Masterfully connecting exceptional people with compelling properties.



Over 25 years of experience
www.AGrealty1.com
925-254-7600

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

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



**ORINDA GARDEN CLUB
PLANT SALE**

- Succulents • Perennials • Pollinators • Natives/Drought Tolerant
- Vegetable Plants including 20+ Tomato Varieties
- Ask the Plant Expert • Firewise Landscaping • Garden Marketplace

April 15th 9am - 1pm Orinda Library Plaza
www.orindagc.org



With Support From
Ann Newton Cane
Top Producer
415.999.0253
a.newtoncane@ggsir.com

Golden Gate
Sotheby's
INTERNATIONAL REALTY

Each Franchise Is Independently Owned And Operated. Lic.#02084093

Measure Z Results
Contra Costa County
March 7, 2023 Ballot

Passed 2/3

YES - 76.46%
NO - 23.54%

Orinda Union School District
For more information, visit:
cocovote.us

What's
On Deck
With
Parks &
Rec!

Registration for Summer Camps and Programs began on March 30 at 9 a.m.

Adult Line Dance classes begin soon. Wednesdays or Thursdays, 10:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.; 8 wks; \$40/46

Sat., April 22 Events:

- Blood Drive, sponsored by OTAC and Red Cross, 8 a.m. - 1 p.m., Community Center
- Wildfire Prevention & Safety Fair, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., Community Park
- Orinda Action Day, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m., Library Plaza
- Farmers' Market, 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Go to www.orindaparksandrec.org or call 925-254-2445 for questions and registration.



Orinda Parks and Recreation Department
925-254-2445
www.OrindaParksandRec.org
OrindaParksandRec@CityofOrinda.org
28 Orinda Way – Orinda Community Center

EDUCATION/ STATE OF THE CITY

Three Years and \$14 Million Later, ONE Celebrates Success

By TRISTAN SHAUGHNESSY
Staff Writer

Celebrating its third anniversary March 14, the Orinda Network for Education (ONE) has raised almost \$14 million dollars for Orinda public schools since its founding in March 2020. And, if the organization reaches its goal for this academic school year, it will add another \$4.8 million to its coffers.

Although officially three-years-old, the idea for ONE was conceived eight years ago, according to the group’s president, Brian Rogers. Noticing a lack of cooperation between Orinda’s six parents’ clubs, which span the Orinda Union School District (OUSD) and Miramonte High School, Rogers saw the prospect to harmonize their efforts.

And after countless phone calls, meetings and emails between Rogers, school administrators and the parents’ groups, this opportunity became a reality.

Before ONE, the clubs were siloed, rarely communicating with one another. Now, ONE hosts roundtables where these groups join forces and strategize.

Describing the utility of these meetings, Jill Hughes, vice president of fundraising for Miramonte’s parents’ club, said they

meet regularly and talk about best practices and share ideas for fundraising.

“If Sleepy Hollow or Del Rey is doing something really well, it is helpful to hear what is happening at the other school sites, to fundraise as effectively as we can,” said Hughes.

Increased collaboration has helped parents’ clubs collect more donations, a critical revenue source for the city’s K-12 institutions.

The OUSD is second to last in state funding, according to their website. ONE contributions make up more than 10% of the district’s budget.

As for Miramonte, many of its programs – such as the Latin curriculum, college and career services and wellness center – are successful because of local support.

“Without them [ONE] our programs would suffer, our class sizes would suffer, our academic course catalog would suffer,” said Miramonte Principal, Ben Campopiano. “We are a first-class school and academic institution that is one of the best in the state and one of the best in the country. A huge reason for that is our parental support and our community support and ONE really leads the way with that.”

With professional staff, ONE has the

[SEE ONE page 7]



COURTESY OF EMILY ALLEN

The Orinda Network for Education (ONE), which raises funds for Orinda public schools, celebrated its third anniversary on March 14 at a gala at the Wilder Art and Garden Center. (L-R) Operations Manager Meredith Friedman, Board President Brian Rogers and Executive Director Emily Allen.

State of the City

CHARLEEN EARLEY

Mayor **Inga Miller** gave a State of the City address on March 1 at a luncheon held at the Orinda Community Center, hosted by the Rotary Club of Orinda. Here, with club President **Rodney Lal**, Miller’s speech focused on Orinda community issues, such as the recently adopted Sixth Cycle of the Housing Element, the Downtown Precise Plan, affordable housing, wildfire prevention and more. She and City Manager, **David Biggs**, fielded questions from attendees after the PowerPoint presentation.

Time to buy or sell? Let me help you.
See what my clients say at www.myagentsuzanne.com

Clients Are Always First

Suzanne Toner Geoffrion
925-699-4832 mobile/text
CalBRE# 01878803
International President’s Circle
Top 100 Sales Coldwell Banker SF Bay Area

©2023 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.

McDonnell Nursery

shop now to receive McDonnell bucks

family owned since 1933

Flowers - Trees - Succulents - Pottery & Fountains
Benches - Garden Decor - House Plants
Gifts - Garden Consultations

www.mcdonnellnursery.com
196 Moraga Way • Orinda • (925) 254-3713 • Open Wed. - Sun.

WELLS FARGO Advisors

A second opinion can help quiet the second guessing

Help leave investment doubt behind. Talk with a financial advisor who can demystify the complexities of investing and help you feel more confident with your investment plan.

Dean Akazawa, CFP®, APMA®
Managing Director - Investment Officer
Senior PIM Portfolio Manager
2 Theatre Square, Suite 210
Orinda, CA 94563
Direct: (925) 253-4313
dean.akazawa@wellsfargoadvisors.com
<https://home.wellsfargoadvisors.com/dean.akazawa>
CA Insurance # 0687690

Investment and Insurance Products:

NOT FDIC Insured	NO Bank Guarantee	MAY Lose Value
------------------	-------------------	----------------

Wells Fargo Advisors is a trade name used by Wells Fargo Clearing Services, LLC, Member SIPC, a registered broker-dealer and non-bank affiliate of Wells Fargo & Company.
© 2020 Wells Fargo Clearing Services, LLC. CAR-1122-03443

EDITORIAL / POLICE

Editorial

Driving Seniors Around Town

It's more than just a ride.

In a world where rideshare apps like Uber and Lyft are ubiquitous, some may question the value of an old-fashioned, neighborly service like Seniors Around Town (SAT), in which Orinda residents volunteer to drive elderly or disabled Orindans to appointments.

After volunteering as a driver for five years, I can say from experience: it is indeed more than just a ride, for both riders and drivers.

I signed up for SAT soon after we moved to Orinda and I personally connected with their mission.

My mother in Virginia doesn't drive. After my dad passed away eight years ago, she not only lost her beloved husband of 55 years, but she also lost her only way to get around in their car-dependent area. Fortunately, I have a brother who lives nearby and is happy to drive her wherever she needs to go. But I wonder about people who aren't so lucky.

It seemed like good karma to volunteer to provide rides to local seniors myself.

It's More Than Just a Ride - Independence and Safety

The seniors we serve are an independent generation. Many don't have local family or friends they can depend on and, even if they do, they don't want to be a bother.

Instead of being anxious about relying on a stranger from a taxi or Uber, our riders feel comfortable and safe knowing their driver is a vetted, reliable and trusted volunteer from their own community who is genuinely happy to be of service.

It's More Than Just a Ride - Connecting

The conversation along the way can be as important as the ride itself. I have repeat riders whom I have gotten to know and care about. We talk about our lives and families. They often have fascinating stories to tell.

Although most SAT rides are for medical appointments, I vividly remember a woman I drove to manicure appointments. She was 98 years old and lived alone.

She once confided in me that she felt guilty requesting a ride to get her nails done, but also told me it was a chance for her to get out of the house and to be touched by another human being.

That broke my heart wide open. I told her it was my absolute joy to drive her and I meant every word.

It's More Than Just a Ride - For Drivers

It's rare I complete a senior drive without feeling some kind of outsized emotion:

Joy at the vigor and optimism of the riders, some 90 or 100-years-old, who still delight in a new puppy or a visit from a grandchild.

Inspiration at how so many seniors, with failing health with mobility issues, overcome these obstacles to continue doing the things that are truly important to them – with a smile and no complaints.

Gratitude, both abundantly expressed to me from riders and renewed in my own life. Driving people decades older than me also makes me stop, take a breath in my busy life and realize how grateful I am for my good health and all my blessings.

[SEE EDITORIAL page 13]

List of *The Orinda News* Advertisers

	Page	Page
Automotive		
Mash Gas and Food	1	State Farm, Bryan Silveira
Orinda Motors	7	State Farm, Kelly Sopak
Orinda Shell Auto Care	16	Real Estate
Community		AG Realty
Lafayette Orinda Presbyterian Church	15	Alexander and Katia Gailas
Orinda Parks & Rec	4	Coldwell Banker
Education		Laura Abrams
Orinda Union School District	10	Suzanne Toner Geoffrion
Fitness		Shellie Kirby
Corekinetics	22	Compass
Financial Services		Mandy Kilpatrick
Park Place Wealth Advisors	23	The Grubb Company
Wells Fargo Wealth Advisors	5	Rebecca Ciccio
Garden/Landscaping		Sotheby's
Ken's Brush Removal & Tree Trimming	14	Barb Brawner
Ken's Redwood Fencing	20	Ann Newton Cane
McDonnell Nursery	5	Jennie Swan
Oakland Hills Brush Clearing	24	Village Associates
Tree Sculpture	18	Shannon Conner
Wildland Corporation	11	Linda Friedman Team
Medical and Dental		Dexter Honens II
Dr. Brian Clark, Psy. D.	17	Christina Linezo
Dr. Mary Smith DDS	15	Murphy Team - Karen & Hilary Murphy
Hospice East Bay	23	Ann Sharf
Medicine Shoppe	20	Clark Thompson
Non-profit		Restaurants/Catering
Orinda Association	3, 14, 17	Baan Thai
Orinda Car Show	20	Casa Orinda
Professional Service		Farmers' Market
5A Rent-A-Space	21	Siam Orchid
Green Sheds	3	Zamboni's Pizza Company
Jeff Heyman Photography	14	Retail
Kirby Carpet Cleaning	18	McCaulou's
LP couture	16	Morrison's Jewelers
Ray Robinson Attorney	21	Technology
Recycle Smart	12, 22	tolahq.com

Letters to the Editor

The Future of Measure Z

Measure Z is essential for our community to bridge the gap between Orinda's district's salaries compared to nearby cities and counties to improve teacher recruitment and retention. Hopefully news of Measure Z's passage will be printed in this edition.

As Measure Z was proposed, homeowners over the age of 65 and low-income homeowners with disabilities are eligible for an exemption from the tax. Low-income homeowners should be exempt, yet exempting all homeowners over the age of 65 is shortsighted and inequitable.

Nearly 1 in 4 residents in Orinda is over the age of 65, according to data published by the 2021 U.S. Census. Exempting nearly 25% of our population, significantly dilutes the potential revenue to hire and retain quality teachers.

The same census publishes Orinda's per capita annual income at \$128,328; the data suggests the vast majority of Orinda residents over 65 are not experiencing financial hardship. The only possible rationale for this exemption is residents over 65 do not have children in the public schools.

All U.S. citizens – through taxes – contribute to programs and services from which they don't directly benefit. Yet great teachers will keep Orinda schools world-class, which in turn supports demand for

new families to move here, which supports strong property values.

Even if you don't have kids in Orinda schools, all residents will benefit from Measure Z and should contribute in kind. The over age 65 exemption should be reversed in future ballot initiatives.

– Alex McCafferty

Vote against Central San (Sewer) proposed rate increase

Please oppose the proposed rate increase by Central San (www.centrialsan.org/notice) by submitting a valid written protest by April 20. It must be a letter (not an email), but it can be delivered by email (kyoung@centrialsan.org), faxed to 925.372.0192, or mailed via USPS to 5019 Imhoff Place, Martinez, CA, 94553.

My arguments are:

1. The proposal mixes two issues into one: i) permission to increase rates, and ii) creation of an ADU group at 45% of single-family homes. We should have the opportunity to cleanly debate and decide the issues separately.

2. Rate Increase: It is suspicious they need additional funds if they can afford to lower the rates for ADUs by 45%. I'd ask for more accounting transparency to justify this.

3. ADU Subsidy (Fairness): Raising

[SEE LETTERS page 7]



POLICE BLOTTER

February 16 through March 15

Calls for Service

Battery: 5 incidents
 Burglary, Residential: 3 incidents:
 Alta Vista, Via Floreado, Sunrise Hill Rd.
 Carjacking: 1 incident: Grizzly Peak
 Civil Disturbance: 2 incidents
 CVC Evading Police - Wrong Way Driver: 1 incident
 Grand Theft: 1 incident: Wilder Rd.
 Grand Theft Vehicle Parts: 3 incidents:
 Fiddleneck Way, Candlestick Rd., Estate Dr.
 Hit & Run - Misdemeanor: 2 incidents
 Identity Theft: 3 incidents
 Property Found: 2 incidents
 Property Lost: 1 incident

Property - Receiving Stolen: 2 incidents
 Shoplifting: 3 incidents

Arrests

Drugs - Possession of Controlled Substance with Loaded Firearm: 1 arrest
 Drugs - Possession of Dangerous: 2 arrests
 Possession of Ammo by Prohibited Person: 1 arrest
 Possession of Weapon, Public Place: 1 incident
 Warrant Arrest: 7 arrests

– Compiled by David Dierks
 Assistant Editor

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.

Executive Editor.....Kathy Cordova
 Editor-in-Chief.....Charleen Earley
 Assistant Editors.....David Dierks, Kathy Bohanan Enzerink
 Copy Editor.....Kathy Enzerink
 Editorial Committee.....Jill Gelster, Cindy Powell
 Advertising Representatives.... Carson Cordova, Kathy Enzerink, Jill Gelster
 Staff Writers.....Mimi Bommarito, Bobbie Dodson, Xavier Estrada, David Fonseca, Sally Hogarty, Barbara Kobsar, Melanie Light, Andrea Madison, Tristan Shaughnessy
 Contributing Writers.....Kate Wiley
 Graphics/Layout.....Aspen Consulting: David Dierks, Jill Gelster
 Photographer.....Jeff Heyman
 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



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 250 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. Letters to the Editor for the May issue are due April 8.

For advertising rates, contact Carson Cordova at 650.646.1357 (carson@theorindanews.com), Kathy Enzerink at 252.626.2109 (kathy@theorindanews.com) or Jill Gelster at 925.528.9225 (jill@aspenconsult.net). The deadline for the May issue is April 8.

SCHOOLS

Miramonte/AUHSD Lawsuit Update

By KATHY CORDOVA
Executive Editor

Following up on *The Orinda News* article about the lawsuit filed against Miramonte High School and the Acalanes Union High School District (AUHSD) published in our February issue, we contacted Jessica Dayton, attorney for the plaintiffs; John Nickerson, Superintendent of AUHSD and Ben Campopiano, Principal of Miramonte High School.

According to Dayton, all developments in the case are technical, legal ones. In an email, she responded to our request for an update as follows: "The school has filed a demurrer, claiming the statute under which these plaintiffs filed is unconstitutional and thus their claims are time-barred. I do not think their position has merit but we will have a hearing on it on April 10."

Neither Nickerson nor Campopiano were working in their current positions

when the sexual assaults referenced in the lawsuit happened. They have been advised by legal counsel not to comment on any issues pertaining to the lawsuit, including measures and practices that are in place to prevent similar situations.

The teacher at the center of the lawsuit, Mark Litton, was sentenced to two years in prison as a result of the sexual assault of one of the underaged plaintiffs. He was not required to register as a sex offender and he has changed his name. He is no longer working as a teacher and he is not working in Orinda or Contra Costa County.

See our February issue online at theorindanews.com to read the original article. *The Orinda News* will continue to provide updates as significant progress occurs.

Kathy Codova can be reached at cordova@theorindanews.com.

◆ ONE from page 5

capacity to explore new fundraising opportunities.

Emily Allen, executive director, said she and her team have contacted local businesses and realtors to bring in new donors. Collaborating with Campopiano, Allen is working to create a formal alumni association for Miramonte, a development which could offer current students access to invaluable mentors, while increasing donations.

Members of ONE lightened the workload on parents who have been volunteering their time to make sure Orinda's schools are well-funded while juggling full-time jobs or caretaking responsibilities. By standardizing routine activities, such as

processing donations and budgeting, the group has saved others precious hours in their packed schedules.

Rogers reflected on ONE's anniversary. "When you get to look back over three years, it's kind of a crazy whirlwind," he said. "But the fact that we've been able to successfully hit our numbers all three years and grow and build out this organization, is definitely something everyone who is associated with ONE should be proud of – it's doing good work."

Thanks to a generous donor, all contributions to ONE, until the end of this school year, will be matched. Donations can be made at www.oneorinda.org/community-giving.

Tristan Shaughnessy can be reached at tristan.c.shaughnessy@gmail.com.

◆ BROCK from page 1

Feb 24, Public Information Officer to the D.A., Ted Asregadoo, informed *The Orinda News* with the following:

"I spoke with one of our felony filers today about this case. After reviewing the referral by Orinda Police, the D.A.'s Office determined that there was insufficient evidence in the PC594(a)(1) felony charge to prove beyond a reasonable doubt in a trial that Mr. Brock, Jr. was guilty of vandalizing and defacing an unmarked Orinda Police vehicle."

Exactly what evidence the arrest was based upon and the strength of that evidence remain open questions. Multiple requests to the OPD and the Contra Costa County Office of the Sheriff to glean details of the evidence leading to Brock's arrest have yielded no information.

"As stated in an earlier email, the Contra Costa County Office of the Sheriff is not providing any digital photos (or videos), copies of evidence, or police reports to you," wrote Director of Public Affairs, Jimmy Lee. "They are investigative records and are exempt under the Public Records Act."

Brock and his wife, Jessica, estimate expenses incurred due to the arrest have cost them more than \$2,500 to date, including bail, impoundment fees for their van, emergency housing and lost wages from missed work.

"It has taken almost all of our savings to post bail and get all of our belongings back," said Brock. "It's scary to think you could be completely innocent of a crime, but still have to pay for it."

Brock returned to his five-year job as a manager at the True Value Orinda Hardware store a day after his wife posted his bail. The couple live in a van due to an eviction in 2019 in Sacramento, the result of a miscommunication with their landlord according to the Brocks.

The Brocks said they feel somewhat

relieved that the D.A. decided not to prosecute, but also said their life is not back to normal.

"I'm relieved, because it means it's [prosecution] not going to be hanging over us, however, it also feels like ... that's it?" said Jessica, who started a fundraiser to recoup their lost funds at <https://gofund.me/bf36562c>. "I have nightmares of losing my husband. I mean, if we hadn't had savings, he would have been stuck in jail for weeks – that's still a scary thought. What if it happens again and we don't have the money?"

Brock is haunted by his recent experiences.

"When they finally released me from jail at 12:05 a.m., I had nothing. No clothes, no shoes, no phone, they towed the van that we live in and took my laptop for evidence," said Brock. "The entire process was devastating and heartbreaking. We are just trying to do the best we can and to be good to people."

Charleen Earley can be reached at earley@theorindanews.com.

◆ LETTERS from page 6

single family home rates while creating a lower rate for ADUs is a subsidy for ADUs paid by single family homeowners. Even if you support ADU expansion (see #4), why should single family home residents pay more to flush their toilet?

4. ADU Subsidy (property value): The debate about ADUs expansion is beyond the scope of this letter. I would be remiss not to highlight this proposal would make it cheaper to operate an ADU (unfairly so - see #3), which encourages building an ADU. If you are against expanding ADUs in our community, this is yet another reason to submit your valid written protest.

– Matthew Robinson

ORINDA CLASSIC CAR CENTER
Mechanical & Electrical
Restoration of 1960 - 1975
American Vehicles

ORINDA MOTORS

63 Orinda Way, Orinda, CA
(925) 475-8435

Orinda AUTO RENTAL
We Also Offer
Rental Cars!

Your Local Family Owned Foreign & Domestic
Certified Auto Repair Shop!

ASE CERTIFIED

GREEN BUSINESS
Environmental Values at Work

SCAN ME

ORINDA ASSOCIATION VOLUNTEERS

The Orinda Association Thanks Its Community Volunteers

Car Show 2022

* denotes event committee

- Kellen Baker
- Mike Baker
- Carlos Baltodano
- Bill Brobeck*
- Tina Chen
- Sarah Cole
- Ethan Cole
- Ethan Conley
- Michael Conley
- Bill Criswell*
- David Dierks
- Barbara Edwards
- Xavier Estrada*
- Jill Gelster*
- Christine Gkatzimas
- Ellie Gkatzimas
- Steve Harwood*
- Hans Hiller*

- Sally Hogarty
- Michelle Jun
- Jessica Kelly
- Mia Kelly
- Jacqueline Kuhner
- Veronique Kuhner
- Chris Laszcz-Davis
- Lilliana Lathers
- Jim Lautz
- Eric Lautz*
- Logan Letulle
- Jennifer Letulle
- Anna Lewis
- Olivia Lewis
- Gail McIntyre
- Chrystal Menard
- Grayson Menard
- Todd Mercer*
- Becca Moltyaner
- Nathan Moltyaner

- Marianne Moser
- Valerie Pettegrew
- Cindy Powell*
- Regan Scovic
- Sydney Scovic
- Lauren Shieh
- Jack Sokol
- Julie Strand
- Wyatt Strand
- Mario Urquilla*
- Lena Van Leeuwen
- Lucas Van Leeuwen
- Emma Verprauskus
- Virginia Wang
- Jay Ward*
- Bill Waterman *
- Lauren White
- Kate Wiley*



CATHY GOSHORN

Kelly Buestad (R), volunteer driver for Seniors Around Town, takes Barbara Kemp to her medical appointment.



HORATIA JUNG

Teen volunteers help with The Orinda Classic Car Tour during the pandemic.

SAT Drivers and Shoppers 2021-2023

- Dave Anderson
- Laura Andrews
- Tara Antommarchi
- Susan Baker
- Maggie Barber
- Jennifer Bates
- Betsy Baus
- Sarah Bennett
- Caleb Bennett-Waugh
- Lucy Berkman
- Sunny Bliss
- Gun Bolin
- Barb Brawner
- Bob Britt
- Kelley Buestad
- Bob Burt

- Karen Burt
- Emily Busse
- Lib Ann Capelli
- Liza Chooi
- Steve Corbitt
- Kathy Cordova
- Stacy Crinks
- Lisa Cvecko
- Tom Dale
- Keith Davidge
- Mary DeLuna
- Laurie Dunn
- Diane Dwyer-Sharp
- Jill Ellis
- Jim Ellis
- Kathy Enzerink
- Ingrid Evans
- Dennis Fay

- Sharon Fischer
- Noreen Fortune
- Janet Franklin
- Andreana Garcia-Phillips
- Rob Garner
- Dianne Gilbert
- Melinda Gillespie
- Cathy Goshorn*
- Jeff Goshorn
- Laurie Hall
- Susan Hamilton
- Lary Hanshaw
- Tish Harwood
- Carolyn Herman
- Keith Horrocks
- Cara Hoxie
- Joel Jackson

[SEE VOLUNTEERS page 9]



Ann Sharf

Top producer, Strong Negotiator, Proven Results

Proven results for over 31 years!

Whether buying or selling let me help you navigate successfully through this ever changing and competitive market!

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

CalBRE# 01156966



93 Moraga Way, Orinda



Combine and get in on the surprise.

Kelly Sopak, Agent
Insurance Lic#: OD03981
1 Northwood Drive Suite 1
Orinda, CA 94563
Bus: 925-253-7700
Cell: 925-726-4444
Mon-Thurs 9:00am to 5:00pm
Fridays 9:00am to 4:30pm
Evenings & Weekends by Appt

Here's the deal, our Home and Auto rates are already great. But when you combine with State Farm®, you can save even more. Call me to discover your surprisingly great rates on Home and Auto today.

Like a good neighbor, State Farm is there.®

Individual premiums will vary by customer. All applicants subject to State Farm underwriting requirements.



State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company
State Farm Indemnity Company
State Farm Fire and Casualty Company
State Farm General Insurance Company, Bloomington, IL
State Farm County Mutual Insurance Company of Texas
State Farm Lloyd's, Richardson, TX
State Farm Florida Insurance Company
Winter Haven, FL
2001863



LISA BURLINI

Teen student volunteers helping to decorate for the Fourth of July celebration.

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



COLDWELL BANKER

ORINDA ASSOCIATION VOLUNTEERS

◆ VOLUNTEERS from page 8

Ali Kozell
Chris Laszcz-Davis
Diane Lautz
Angie Leong
Linda Martin
Nancy Marvin
Melissa Matosian
Gail McIntyre
Pam McKulla
Stephen Mico
Alexis Miller
Traci Miller
Laura Millham
Don Monoco
Dave Morrow
Junko Nagatani
Saudia Ooyshe
Vanessa Padon
Wendy Peterson
Maggie Reeves

Russ Salmon
Lenny Sass
Pamela Schroeder
Lisa Sernett
Bella Shirin
Dan Slaven
Vanessa Smith
Maria Solit
Steve Stahle
Patty Stanten
Jessica Stokes
Michelle Swagger
Erik Swanson
Annie Terry
Lauren Trailer
Helen Tyrrell
Mario Urquilla
Lily Vuong
William Wagner
Emily Waterbury

Bill Waterman
Marie Waterman
Greta Westeson
Lauren White
Kate Wiley*
Molly Wilson
Charlie Wingo
Jay Wingo
Shelley Zovickian

The Orinda Association Office

Lisa Burlini
Liza Chooi
Tammy Thompson

July 4th Parade 2022

Vivian Arndt
Mia Balonick
Carlos Baltodano



LISA BURLINI

Teen and adult volunteers help with The Orinda Association Fourth of July Celebration.



CINDY POWELL

Volunteers prepare to assist with traffic control for the Fourth of July Parade.

Courtney Bennett
Mimi Bommarito
Barbara Brawner
Gina Brewster
Ryan Brewster
Jacalyn Buettner
Lisa Burlini
Scott Butler
Leo Cardozo
Anil Comelo
Bill Cosden
Jan Cushman
Paul Dew
Chris Flum
Meghan Frey
Darlene Gee
Dennis Gee
Paul Gilbert
Steve Harwood
Jeff Heyman
Sally Hogarty
Kathryn Ishizu
Frank Kaiser

Chris Laszcz-Davis
Diane Lautz
Christina Linezo
Latika Malkani
Maya Martono
Gail McIntyre
Abigail Meyers
Inga Miller
Marianne Moser
Terry Murphy
Grace Paik
Cindy Powell
Andy Radlow
Samuel Safahi
Elizabeth Savala
Sautter Savala
Rich Shearer
Nina Shesgreen
Nicole Sidlauskas
Kelly Sopak
April Stevens
Stevens
Sandy Tan

Daniel Thaler
Suzanne Toms
Trish Ward
Bill Waterman
Lauren White
Molly Wilson
Alison Wright

OA Board of Directors

Carlos Baltodano
Barb Brawner
Jacalyn Buettner
Sally Hogarty
Chris Laszcz-Davis
Diane Lautz
Marianne Moser
Grace Paik
Cindy Powell
Kelly Sopak
Eloise Sotelo
Bill Waterman
Lauren White
Kate Wiley

Stunning Sophisticated Remodel



New Listing ~ 48 Camino Don Miguel, Orinda

3 Beds + Office • 2 Baths • 2,055 Sq. Ft.

This sophisticated single story Orinda Country Club home has been remodeled to perfection with a stunning sun filled gracious open floor plan. The home has many Heritage Oaks filtering distant views of the Orinda Hills providing shade in the summertime and Sun in the winter! The detached two car garage includes a workshop and lots of storage. There is a separate heated office attached to the garage that is also completely remodeled with windows facing the views. The residence features hardwood floors throughout, recessed lighting and smooth finished walls. The kitchen has custom cabinetry, marble counter tops, custom lighting, and adjoins a laundry/mud room/pantry with a patterned glass door that separates the room from the kitchen area. The Dining room opens to the outside flat yard and patio areas which are very peaceful and quiet. The driveway is gated. This residence is close to downtown Orinda. Just a beauty!

\$1,925,000 • 48CaminoDonMiguel.com

PENDING | 16 Evergreen Drive, Orinda | \$1,695,000



Laura Abrams

laura@lauraabrams.com | DRE # 01272382

510.697.3225

Recognized as one of America's 2022 Best Real Estate

Professionals by Real Trends and Tom Ferry.

Ranked among the top 1% of 1.4 million real estate

professionals in the United States!

5 Moraga Way, Orinda CA.

www.lauraabrams.com

You are welcome to follow me on Instagram @Lauraabrams_



Celebrating 24 Years With Coldwell Banker Orinda
A Trusted Partnership Local Expertise
with Global Connections



STUDENTS / EVERYDAY ORINDA

National Charity League Lamorinda Honors Class of 2023



JULEEN LAPPORTE

On March 5, the Lamorinda Chapter of National Charity League recognized its 21 graduating seniors in an event at the Contra Costa Country Club. Members of the Class of 2023 are: Front row (L-R): **Megan Stephens, Sofia Vezzali, Ava Garcia, Elle Forscher**; Middle row (L-R): **Abigail Weiner, Catie McCauley, Annie Coane, Shayne Clancy, Ellie Belshaw**; Back row (L-R): **Caitlyn Haraburda, Haley Metherd, Paige Davis, Shipley Duff, Alexa Carter, Ana Pieper, Lila Waechter, Nicole Lamison, Sophia Lohman, Ava Martinez, Kay Lankford and Ella Hack.**

Zamboni's
PIZZA COMPANY

1 Camino Sobrante, Suite 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! (\$20 min)

Open Everyday
11am – 9:00pm

SIAM ORCHID
Esquinte Thai Cuisine

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

Everyday Orinda

OUR BEST "SOMEDAY" SCENARIO

MIMI BOMMARITO



In 2009, my husband Guy and I found ourselves campaigning to raise our taxes. Yep, Raise Our Taxes In Orinda. The most insanely expensive place we'd ever lived. I blamed our kids.

Parenthood changes identities and priorities. Denial begins the moment we first cradle our newborns, vowing to forever be that hip, cool, bestie soulmate, never losing our temper or repeating any mistakes of our parents. We fashioned our own, brand-new set of blunders. Before we knew it, we were adulting, choosing sleep over a night out with friends; comfort over fashion; bland pizza and Barney, all for the sake of the little ones.

The subjugation happens in stages, gradually. My moment of realization hit in 2009. Orinda schools consumed my life. A newcomer with three school-aged children, my forehead was immediately inked with the cosmic "fresh meat" stamp, meaning I was quickly sucked-in to the Volunteer Vortex needed to keep our schools afloat.

When I first heard "Orinda is known for excellent public schools," I was foolish

enough to believe this was a naturally occurring phenomenon. Orinda just happened to have outstanding schools, much like some humans are born artistic or athletic and others are not. Luck of the draw. I deserved my fate.

I found myself co-president-elect of the Glorietta Parents Club. My volunteerism baffled my husband because I complained. A lot. "Why did you agree to this?" he asked, genuinely curious. "You know these people scare you." For the record, Orindans did, and do, scare me. We can be an intense bunch, especially when it comes to our schools. The term "Imposter Syndrome" had not yet been coined, but I'm the poster child.

"That's not helping!" I snapped. "Quit your judging and get to work on a video that supports the parcel tax. Zero budget and it can't embarrass the girls."

Fortunately, the man has a lifelong career as an advertising creative director. He generated an amazing, weep-worthy script; revealing, through the innocent and

[SEE EVERYDAY page 20]

MK
THE MANDY KILPATRICK TEAM



Partner with confidence.

36+ collective years in real estate and **\$68M** in sales for 2022. That's true expertise, delivering results for YOU!

**BUYING OR SELLING?
MAKE THE MOVE WITH MANDY**

CONTACT:
✉ MANDY@MANDYKILPATRICK.COM
☎ 415-297-8441
🌐 WWW.MANDYKILPATRICK.COM

COMPASS

ORINDA UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT

Volunteers needed for Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee

The Independent Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee (CBOC) will:

- Inform the public about expenditures of bond proceeds from recently passed Measures E & I.
- Review expenditures to ensure bond proceeds are spent for authorized purposes.
- Provide an annual report to the Board of Trustees at a public meeting.

CBOC Member Terms and Meeting Information

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

Committee Representation

The CBOC vacancies are:

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

More Information

For more information or to request an application, contact Kathy Schwarz at kschwarz@orindaschools.org or by phone at (925) 258-6200. Deadline to apply is 4:30 p.m. on April 14, 2023.

FORUM / ORINDA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Breakthroughs in Learning from First Friday Forum Speaker Jim Marggraff

By **BOBBIE DODSON**
Staff Writer

Jim Marggraff is speaking at First Friday Forum (FFF), April 14 at 10 a.m. His topic is “Breakthroughs in Learning: When AI Meets Neuroscience: Making Your Child’s World Their Screen - Without a Screen.” The in-person forum is in the Fellowship Hall at Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church, located at 49 Knox Drive, Lafayette.



COURTESY OF JIM MARGGRAFF

“Breakthroughs in Learning: When AI Meets Neuroscience: Making Your Child’s World Their Screen - Without a Screen,” is the topic of First Friday Forum’s talk by guest speaker and entrepreneur **Jim Marggraff**.

Marggraff said new brain research can be combined with AI (Artificial Intelligence) to create multisensory experiences which accelerate learning at any age.

“When this happens for young children, we will be preparing our next generation to lead the world to new heights and to solve our world’s most challenging issues,” he said.

He will present a hands-on, sneak-peek demonstration of the technology he is creating to show how this is possible.

A serial inventor and entrepreneur, Marggraff was named both Entrepreneur and Father of the Year by Ernst and Young. He is also a TED (technology, entertainment and design) speaker.

For more than 30 years, Marggraff has dedicated his energy, vision and inventiveness to developing standards, applications, technology and products for companies committed to creating innovative solutions, improving learning and advancing human creativity, curiosity and communication.

Marggraff invented the popular LeapPad learning device, which is listed in the top 150 inventions from MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology) graduates.

His commitment to technology-based learning helped LeapFrog grow from \$16 million to \$680 million in annual sales, and sell more than \$1 billion worth of LeapPads and educational content worldwide in less than five years.

Marggraff’s voice – as lead voiceover talent for LeapFrog, the company that purchased LeapPad – has greeted tens of millions of the device’s users. His inventions and content have impacted more than 100 million children and adults in reading, math and language skills and have sparked

Orinda Community Foundation



CINDY POWELL

Richard Westin, Orinda Community Foundation (OCF) president, presented **Vince Dell’Aquila**, Orinda’s 2022 Citizen of the Year, with a proclamation from Senator **Steve Glazer**’s office at the annual OCF Anniversary Party, held Feb. 23. **Sue Severson** is the foundation’s outgoing president. (L-R) Westin, **Jocelyn Bennion**, **Larry Berger**, **Natalie Fay**, Dell’Aquila, **Carlos Baltodano**, **Gene Gottfried**, **Sandy Roadcap**, and **Jim Keefe**. Not pictured OCF Board Members are **Annette Linney**, Severson, **Perry Shustack** and **Tina Zwahlen**.

and fueled a passion for lifelong learning for people around the globe.

In February 2019, he was awarded the “Rotary STAR Humanitarian Award” for his work in propagating information and education.

In 2020, he founded his seventh company, Kinoo, Inc., a breakthrough literacy and learning platform, which develops critical skills without screens. Using a handheld Magic Wand Reader, kids interact with ordinary paper books with sounds, light and motion. Think of it as Wii for books meets a LeapPad.

Marggraff received several degrees from MIT and holds more than 60 granted patents.

Currently, Marggraff is CEO, Chairman and Co-Founder of Kinoo, Inc; board

member of Foresight Mental Health; advisor to the Jibe Company; Chairman and Co-founder of The Global Impact Group and board member of the Gleason Family Foundation Leadership Council, One Shared World.

FFF Chair, Mike Rusk, is thrilled to have Marggraff as its next speaker.

“This is an outstanding opportunity to learn from one of our own. Jim lives in Lafayette and is a leading innovator in today’s world,” said Rusk. “Come to Fellowship Hall or follow along on Zoom.” Register to attend via Zoom at lopc.org/first-friday-forum/ and click on the “Register Here” button.

Bobbie Dodson can be reached at bobbiedodson109@gmail.com.

BEFORE

Tractor Mowing
Weed Cutting
Brush Clearing
Chipping
Fire Breaks
Fire Department Compliance

AFTER

Will Thorn • Wildland Corporation • (510) 306-6285 • CSLB #1089268
will@wildlandcorp.com • wildlandcorp.com

ORINDA THEATER

Orinda Theatre's Oscars Night



JEFF HEYMAN

Orinda Theatre's Oscar Party on March 12 featured owner **Derek Zemrak** with legendary San Francisco movie critic, **Jan Wahl**, entertaining the revelers during breaks in the broadcast. Partiers enjoyed a red carpet entrance, champagne, appetizers and predicting winners on sample Oscar ballots during the celebration. See more photos of the evening on our Instagram page @theorindanews.

Andreas Returns to Live At the Orinda! with *Piaf – No Regrets*

By SALLY HOGARTY
Staff Writer

Edith Piaf, known as France's national chanteuse, had a very complex life. Abandoned by her mother and raised in a brothel, she worked her way from singing on the streets to become an international star. During World War II, she sang at prisoner-of-war camps where she was instrumental in helping a number of prisoners escape.

Now, Tony-nominated Broadway star and cabaret sensation, Christine Andreas, brings Piaf's complicated persona and transformative music to the Orinda The-

atre's concert series April 23 with her new show, *Piaf - No Regrets*.

"At first, I had a misconception about Piaf. Many people think of her as this poor, tragic soul, but she was so much more than that. She was magnificent," said Andreas. "Yes, her life was crazy and eccentric, but she lived it on her own terms. She broke through so many barriers as a woman and as a performer. As a composer, she wrote over 100 songs. What a soul!"

In Andreas' show, she takes Piaf out of this tragic myth to show what a great artist she was and how she reflected the tumultu-

[SEE LIVE page 13]



CLIFF LIPSON

Consummate performer **Christine Andreas** returns to the Live At the Orinda! concert series with her new show, *Piaf – No Regrets* April 23. The multi-media presentation includes slides and video as well as Andreas' soaring vocals with husband **Marty Silvestri**, Grammy nominated composer and pianist.

ANNUAL COMPOST
GIVEAWAY

HOSTED BY RECYCLES MART
AND REPUBLIC SERVICES



Bring 5-gallon buckets, cardboard boxes or other strong containers that you can lift yourself. **NO BAGS or TRUCK BEDS.** Republic Services provides staff to shovel compost into your containers. Residents can take up to 50 gallons of compost (ten 5-gallon buckets), while supplies last.

Reserve your time. Registration required:
RecycleSmart.org/ICAW

This event is open to: Lafayette, Orinda, Moraga and RecycleSmart residents only.

Saturday, May 6th, 8:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M. (registration required)
Event hosted in Lafayette. Register for event information.



CONTINUATIONS

◆ LIVE from page 12

ous time in which she lived. To accomplish this, Andreas added slides and videos – some featuring Piaf singing.

“It’s really more of a theater piece than a cabaret show. I added four to five beautiful speeches by poet and writer Drew Harris. They help put you in Piaf’s world,” she said.

A consummate performer, Andreas’ starring roles on Broadway include *The Scarlet Pimpernel*, *Oklahoma!*, *My Fair Lady* (opposite the Royal Shakespeare Company’s Ian Richardson), *Light in the Piazza* and *La Cage Aux Folles* with Kelsey Grammar.

Her concert work has taken her to such esteemed venues as Carnegie Hall, the Kennedy Center and London’s West End.

Andreas performed to a sold-out crowd last May as part of the concert series with Love Is Good and looks forward to sharing her enthusiasm about the music and personality of Edith Piaf.

Also making the show special is Andreas’ husband, Grammy Award-nominated composer, producer and pianist Marty Silvestri.

“Marty does an awful lot in the show,” said Andreas. “He’s not just a pretty face playing the piano up there. But I’m keeping his contribution a surprise.”

As to working with her husband, Andreas said, “We challenge each other in a good way. He’s the best showman I’ve ever worked with.”


The complexity of Piaf’s music drew Andreas to her songs. She was capti-

vated by how Piaf could transport listeners to another world through her music.

“At the end of a performance, the audience should feel like they’ve been taken somewhere, that their hearts have been opened. They should feel their humanity, in a good way,” Andreas said, who challenges herself to dig deeper into the meaning of every song each time she sings.

Piaf No Regrets plays April 23 at 5 p.m. at the Orinda Theatre, 2 Orinda Theatre Square. Seating is reserved and is expected to sell out. For tickets, visit www.orindamovies.com.


Sally Hogarty can be reached at sallyhogarty@gmail.com.




*Achieving the Real Estate Goals of clients, friends and family in your neighborhood since 1989.
Native & lifelong resident of Orinda.*

DEDICATION □ TRUST □ INTEGRITY □ RESULTS

DEXTER HONENS II
Real Estate Broker
Cell: (510) 918-8911
Email: dex@dexrealtor.com
www.dexrealtor.com


DRE # 01029372



◆ EDITORIAL from page 6

Each ride is a gem of an opportunity for personal connection in a time when many of us can’t put down our devices long enough to relate to an actual human being.

Many of the seniors we drive have led compelling lives. They’ve worked hard in difficult circumstances we can barely imagine. They’ve gone to war, started over after immigrating from foreign countries, raised families and given back to their communities. It’s a privilege to help this generation who has contributed so much.

Oh, back to karma.

Very soon after I signed up for SAT, my mother had to take a cab to a new dentist. The cab driver dropped her off by the side of the road at the official address, but she was confused as to exactly where the dentist’s office was.

A guardian angel appeared in the form of a woman who was attending a Bible study nearby. She not only helped my mother to her appointment, but also insisted on driving her home afterwards.

If you want good karma and to feel a little more joy, gratitude and connection in your life, I encourage you to volunteer to drive a senior.

It truly is More Than Just a Ride.

Kathy Cordova can be reached at cordova@theorindanews.com.

Got a news tip, success story, sports achievement, great human-interest idea for the *The Orinda News*?



GOT A STORY IDEA?

Send to
editor@theorindanews.com



Diamond Earring GIVEAWAY
2.02 cts Diamond Stud Earrings
Radiant white diamonds F/SI2
3 prong, martini setting, 18kt WG
(\$19,000 retail value)



3 ways to enter:

1. Every \$500 spent in our store = 1 ticket
2. Come to a 3rd Thursday event = 3 tickets
3. Purchase tickets on our website 1/\$100

with all proceeds going to @Norsledrescue, our local Husky Rescue

Raffle runs the length of our 100th year. Drawing will be held on Dec 21st 2023, at our 3rd Thursday holiday event.



100 Years
Four Generations
Love you can see, since 1923

Celebrate our Centennial with us!

**3rd Thursday – Saturday,
every month of 2023**

Find our plans at:
MorrisonsJewelers.com
or
Scan this QR code










**Featured Designer
33% off retail – 3 days ONLY**

925-253-9227 • 35 Moraga Way, Orinda • MorrisonsJewelers.com • @MorrisonsJewelry

COMMUNITY EVENTS

FIRE ADAPTED COMMUNITY NEWS

ORINDA'S FIRST WILDFIRE SAFETY AND PREPAREDNESS FAIR

MELANIE LIGHT



Orinda's first Wildfire Safety and Preparedness Fair is scheduled on Earth Day because James Duff, Orinda's Education and Outreach Coordinator, wanted to "further cement the idea that while wildfire is a natural occurrence, in a changing climate, our actions have direct and tangible consequences."

The fair is at the Community Park, 28 Orinda Way on Saturday, April 22 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Admission is free.

He also scheduled it a bit before Moraga-Orinda Fire District (MOFD) starts its code enforcement, so residents have a chance to take care of their property before citations are issued. Clean-up tips and fire-adapted landscaping ideas will be offered by the Orinda Garden Club.

Bring a few dollars to cruise the Farmers' Market. Then head on into the park, where there will be additional concessions available, live music in the gazebo and lots of experts eager to share information and tips about how to become wildfire adapted.

There will be activities for the whole family.

There is a petting zoo of goats used to graze down the Orinda Oaks Parks and Open Space. MOFD is bringing a truck for kids to climb on and Rescue 1 will have a Utility Terrain Vehicle. Family pet owners can ask a local shelter how to keep pets safe and how to evacuate them if necessary.



COURTESY OF CITY OF ORINDA

Patti Young, current steering committee member for the Lamorinda CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) offers Orinda residents information about how to be ready for an emergency. A similar event, the WildFire Safety and Preparedness Fair is on Earth Day, April 22 and runs in conjunction with Orinda Action Day and Orinda Farmers' Market.

California Department of Insurance members will give updated information on home insurance, discounts for Firewise homes and groups as well as what lies ahead for homeowners. Other agency representatives will "show-and-tell" actions they are taking and will hear community input and answer questions.

The Orinda Firewise Council will have information about the Firewise program and their new interactive map of Firewise neighborhoods. Residents can find out if their home is in a Firewise group or if they are near one to join, plus tips and guidance for becoming a Firewise group.

This fair offers visitors the opportunity to ask questions and discover how

to become wildfire-protected. Burning (hah!) questions like, "Which gutter guards should I get?" or "Come on, how bad is the wildfire threat really?" and "Do I have to cut down my heirloom roses?"

In addition to the fair, there is a blood drive from 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. in the Orinda Community Center and the Annual Orinda Action Day from 10 a.m. - noon in the Lower Library Plaza. The Library opens at 11 a.m.

Come out with your family, join the fun and be part of the solution - lowering Orinda's risk of wildfire, together.

Melanie Light can be reached at melanie@melanielight.com.

Outcasts Revisited Media LLC

Jeff Heyman

Photography
Communications
Media

CALL ME!
510.499.1420

www.OutcastsRevisitedMedia.com

Brush Removal & Tree Trimming
to satisfy Moraga-Orinda Fire District's regulations

Free estimates!

925-938-9836
licensed, bonded & insured.
CA #667491

www.kensrototilling.com

Student **T-shirt Design CONTEST**

ORINDA ANNUAL CLASSIC CAR SHOW 2023

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: APR 15

Open to Lamorinda students 8th to 12th Grade

01

02 Winner receives \$100 & winning design will be sold at the car show!

THE ORINDA ASSOCIATION

WINNER ANNOUNCED: MAY 7

HOW

FORMAT MUST BE HIGH RESOLUTION DIGITAL VECTOR FILE: .AI, .PDF, .PSD

WWW.ORINDASSOCIATION.ORG/TSHIRT
FOR ENTRY FORM AND CONTEST RULES

CARSHOWTSHIRT@ORINDASSOCIATION.ORG

Mother's Day

May 14, 2023

love you FOR GRANDMAS, TOO

MOM

Say it with an ad
IN THE ORINDA NEWS

Deadline April 10, 2023
Ad will appear in the May Issue

www.theorindanews.com

SEASONED SHOPPER



Seasoned Shopper
Fabulous Favas

BARBARA KOBSAR 

Favas have it all. The plants are prized as a cover crop to prevent erosion, improve soil texture and suppress weeds. They can withstand cold weather and high salinity soil (unlike most legumes) and they fix nitrogen in the soil.

Bushy fava plants grow quickly to four to five feet in height and produce prodigious amounts of green leaves. The tender broad, flat leaves and stems at the top of the plant can be harvested without damaging the plant's ability to continue to produce the fava bean pods. These leaves are slightly sweet and buttery and can be added raw to salads or pesto or wilted like spinach to add to pasta, piled on toast, cooked in quiche or used as a pizza topping. Look for fresh greens early in the

season.

Most favas are sold at the fresh shell bean stage. The velvety pods range from six to 10 inches long and are popped open to reveal five to eight beans.

Very young, small fava beans are tender and can be eaten whole (after shelling) by sautéing in a little olive oil or tossed into a pasta salad.

Larger beans are a bit more labor intensive. Remove the fava beans from large pods (as if you are shelling peas) and discard the pods. Add the favas to a saucepan of boiling water and blanch for a couple of minutes. Drain and immerse in ice water to keep the bright green color. Drain again and slip the skin off each fava bean (this is where the labor of love comes in). Pinch

[SEE SHOPPER page 19]

THE LINDA FRIEDMAN TEAM
Leading Lamorinda Broker since 1990



LINDA FRIEDMAN
JD, Broker
925-899-2336
linda@lindafriedman.com
DRE 00521002



PEGGY HARMATZ
MBA, Realtor
925-899-6321
peggy@lindafriedman.com
DRE 01200791

Just Listed:
FABULOUS 5 bedroom Glorietta ranch!



www.LindaFriedman.com





BARBARA KOBSAR

Ronnie Victor from Green Organix sells micro greens to top the perfect fava bean crostini.

:YOUR:
Orinda
SATURDAY
Farmers' Market

22 Orinda Way,
in front of Community Park



OPEN YEAR ROUND
9am-1pm



Contra Costa Certified
Farmers' Markets
www.cccfm.org f @
EBT Welcome



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

You are welcome to Dine-In or
Take your food To-Go with Curb Side Pick Up.
We are here for you!

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



YOUR SMILE IS EVERYTHING

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



Proudly serving the Lamorinda Community for over 26 years.

We always welcome new patients.

Our office delivers the highest quality and service.

Consults are always complimentary.

**Come visit our brand new state of the art office.
1 Bates Blvd. Suite 210, Orinda, 925.254.0824**

LAFAYETTE-ORINDA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

EASTER
APRIL 9

Worship • 9:00 & 10:30 a.m.
Sunrise Service • 6:30 a.m.

49 KNOX DRIVE, LAFAYETTE, CA

LOPC.ORG  a loving community of faith that
learns, grows, and serves together.

PERFORMING ARTS

Orinda Intermediate School Students Proudly Present *Shrek JR.*



JEFF HEYMAN

Orinda Intermediate School students proudly present *Shrek JR.*, April 20-22. The musical, produced by Bay Area Children's Theatre, includes 48 sixth through eighth grade actors, grouped into two casts, and 12 student tech crew members. **Dave Abrams**, Bay Area Children's Theatre Teaching Artist and choreographer for the show is pictured rehearsing with one of the casts. All six performances (three per cast) are held in the Orinda Intermediate School multi-purpose room at 80 Ivy Dr. For tickets, which are \$12 each, visit www.showtix4u.com/event-details/71860.



Orinda Shell Auto Care

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

Celebrating Over 19 Years in Business
 Thank You Orinda!





925 254-1486 • fax 925 254-3427
 9 Orinda Way
 e-mail orindashell@sbcglobal.net





LP Couture

Phuong Do, Atelier

- Bespoke Clothing
- Personal Fashion Design
- Prom Dresses
- Evening Gowns
- Bridal Gowns
- Tuxedos
- Custom Tailoring
- Custom Alterations



Achieve the *perfect* fit
 to look your best!

3945 Piedmont Avenue
 Oakland
341.732.6888
lpcouture8@gmail.com

STUDENTS

Student Contest: Design Winning T-Shirts for 4th of July and Car Show

By KATHY BOHANAN ENZERINK
Assistant Editor

Do you like to draw? Create stunning digital art? If so, get out the crayons, colored pencils, paints and computers. Through April 15, students are invited to submit original designs to become the official Fourth of July and Orinda Classic Car Show T-Shirts for 2023.

Fourth of July Contest
Open to students grades K-7
Hand-drawn artwork only
Red, white and blue only
Submit on 8.5x11" paper



See full-size ad page 3.



See full-size ad page 14.

Must include the words
Orinda
4th of July
2023

Classic Car Show Contest
Open to students grades 8-12
Digital art only
High Resolution, Digital Vector
Format: .AI, .PDF, .PSD

Winners in each category, announced May 7, will receive \$100 plus bragging rights for the top design.

Visit www.orindaassociation.org/tshirt to access the entry form and contest rules.

Barron Mosteller Wins Gold Medal at Canada Open



ANGI MOSTELLER

Barron Mosteller, a sophomore at Miramonte High School, won Gold at the 2023 Canada Open held by World Taekwondo, a G2 event in Vancouver on Feb. 24. Mosteller competes in -59kg world class black belt. Only Kukkiwon dan (degree) certified black belts and athletes with a valid 2023 global license are allowed to compete. Mosteller is a second degree black belt. He stands with winners **Diego Pineda** (Silver), **Everjohn Brual** (Bronze) and **Yassine Hilal** (Bronze). **Dr. Russel Ahn** (left), a member of the Canada Open Competition Board and Taekwondo's Technical Committee Chair for FISU (Federation Internationale du Sport Universitaire), awarded the medals to each winner.

Orinda Starlight Village Players Auditions in April

The Orinda Starlight Village Players are holding auditions for two of its summer productions in April.

The July Production is Ray Cooney's *It Runs in the Family*. Auditions are April 1, 2 p.m. at the Orinda Community Center Park Amphitheater and April 4, 7 p.m. in Orinda Community Center Room 3.

The final production of the season is *Carlo Collodi's Pinocchio* adapted by Malcolm Cowler. Auditions are April 22, 2 p.m. at the Orinda Community Center Park Amphitheater and April 25, 7 p.m. in Orinda Community Center Room 3.

For more information, call 925.528.9225 or visit www.orsvp.org.

Celebrate OUSD Graduates in Print



Ally- We are so proud of you! We look forward to your continued success at UC Davis and your future. Enjoy the journey. We love you!!
Mom, Dad, Peyton, Erin and Trent

The Orinda News is offering special, low-cost ads to be published in the May issue for all graduates, from kindergarten to college! Several ad sizes and cost options are available and will be placed throughout the newspaper.



For more information, contact:

Carson Cordova, 650.223.3734, carson@theorindanews.com
Kathy Enzerink, 252.626.2109, kathy@theorindanews.com
Jill Gelster, 925-528-9225, jill@aspenconsult.net

Space reservations due by April 8
Photo and message due by April 11

ADOLESCENTS · ADULTS · FAMILIES

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

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

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

BARB BRAWNER HOMES



Urban Chic Condo Jack London Square



- 1 Bedroom
- 1 Bathroom
- Office Work Space
- Beautifully Remodeled
- Open Floor Plan
- Expansive Outdoor Space
- Secured Parking
- A + Walk Score

Call me for a showing

Barb Brawner JD
925.212.7672
Barb@BarbBrawner.com
BarbBrawnerHomes.com
DRE# 01922264

Golden Gate | Sotheby's
INTERNATIONAL REALTY

Each Office Is Independently Owned And Operated.

CALENDAR / CLUBS

On the Calendar in April

- 1 **Orinda Farmers' Market.** 9 a.m. Orinda Way in front of Rite Aid and the Community Park. www.cccfm.org or market hotline at 925.431.8361. Also April. 8, 15 22 and 25. See article p. 15.
Orinda Library presents *How to Argue with Your Parents and Win: a Public Speaking Workshop* 2 p.m. 4th and 5th graders, in-person workshop. Register at lin.look@library.cccounty.us. Also April 15.
Orinda Starlight Village Players auditions 2 p.m. at the Orinda Community Center Park Amphitheater also April 4, 7 p.m. at the Orinda Community Center, Room 3, for *It Runs in the Family* by Ray Cooney. Go to www.orsvp.org for details.
Orinda Theatre presents *Yellow Bird* with special guest, Kathy Garver. 12:30 p.m. go to bit.ly/3li6fmx for tickets.
- 2 **Art Gallery at Wilder** presents the works of Mary Claire Stotler through April. To schedule a viewing, contact Curator Ani Breslin at anistonbreslin@berkeley.edu. See article p. 20.
The Diablo Symphony and Festival Opera present *Tales from the Briar Patch* 2 p.m. at the Leshner Center for the Arts. Visit www.diablosymphony.org for tickets.
- 3 **Orinda Parks and Rec Spring Break Camps** begin. Go to www.orindaparksandrec.org to register.
- 5 **Social Dance Classes** Orinda Community Center, 925-254-2445 or www.orindaparksandrec.org to register.
- 6 **Orinda Books: Pat's Book Club** reads and discusses *Rebel Cinderella* by Adam Hochschild. 11 a.m. Email info@orindabooks.com for reservations.
Orinda Library Paws to Read. Children in

grades K through 5 can read with certified friendly dogs. Register at <http://tinyurl.com/OrindaPaws>.
Art Gallery at the Orinda Library features local artists at reception. 3 p.m. Orinda library. See article p. 20.

- 8 **Orinda Rotary.** Annual Spring Egg Hunt 10:30 a.m. to noon, Orinda Community Center Play Field, Ages: Toddlers through Kindergarten; Grades 1 and 2, 11 a.m.
- 14 **First Friday Forum** presents *Breakthroughs in Learning: When AI Meets Neuroscience: Making Your Child's World Their Screen - Without a Screen* with Jim Marggraff 10 a.m., via Zoom. Register at lopc.org/first-friday-forum. See article p. 11.

[SEE CALENDAR page 19]



This is Neha's Gold Award project for Troop 30764 of the Orinda-Moraga Service Unit of the Girl Scouts of Northern California.

COURTESY OF ORINDA LIBRARY

How to Argue with Your Parents and Win is suitable for tweens (9 to 12) years, see April 1 listing.

Club Meetings in April

American Association of University Women-Orinda-Moraga-Lafayette Branch (AAUW-OML) AAUW provides fellowships and grants for post-graduate academic work and community projects. aauw-ca.org/govtrek/.
Backyard Drumming Circle meets every other Wednesday at the SunJams Backyard Stage, 183 Moraga Way. Contact Amer Budayr at <https://events.humanitix.com/wednesday-drumming-circle-we-start-from-the-beginning>.
Community Gentle Yoga, via Zoom, Mondays and Thursdays 9-10 a.m. Contact Gaby Mozee at gcmozee@gmail.com.
Friends of the Joaquin Moraga Adobe. Third Monday, 7:30 p.m. via zoom.

Contact kentlong@moragaadobe.org or www.moragaadobe.org.
Friends of the Orinda Creeks. Fourth Wednesday. 3 p.m., 925.408.1840. www.orindacreeks.org.
Junior Garden Club Orinda. Third Thursday of the month. Contact jumpfor@gmail.com.
Lamorinda Alcohol Policy Coalition. Third Wednesday, 10 a.m., 925.687.8844, ext. 227. <https://bit.ly/3egD3EZ>.
Lamorinda Meditation Community. Mondays and Thursdays, 10:30 - 11:25 a.m. All levels and philosophies welcome. Contact Gaby Mozee at gcmozee@gmail.com.
Lamorinda Republican Women Federated. Third Thursday. For more information, visit www.lamorindarepublicanwomenfederated.org.
Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary. Fridays at 7 a.m. breakfast at Veterans Memorial Center, 3780 Mount Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. Guests welcome, no reservations needed, www.lamorindasunrise.org, lamorindasunrise@gmail.com.
Montelindo Garden Club April 21 to hear "All About Olive Oil: A Tasting" with Amphora Nueva Olive Oil. See www.montelindogarden.com/meetings for information. Lafayette Library Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Lafayette. 9:30 a.m. registration. Free.
The Orinda Association. First Monday 7 p.m., Zoom meeting. 925.254.0800 or www.orindaassociation.org.
Orinda Chamber of Commerce. Third Wednesday 4 - 5 p.m. Membership meeting April 12, Board Meeting April 19.
Orinda Garden Club. www.orindagc.org, 925.257.0668.

Orinda Hiking Club. Every weekend and first Wednesday, contact Ian at 925.254.1465 or www.orindahiking.org.
Orinda Historical Society. Open Thursdays from 3 - 5 p.m. and the last Saturday of the month from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Call 925.254.1353 or email info@orindahistory.org. <https://orindahistory.org>.
Orinda Junior Women's Club. Second Tuesday, 7 p.m. Contact membership@orindajuniors.org for location.
Orinda Masonic Lodge #122 F&AM. 9 Altarinda Road. 925.254.5211. For meeting information and rental visit go to www.orindalodge.org.
Orinda Rotary. Wednesdays, 12:15 p.m. at the Founders' Auditorium, 28 Orinda Way, Guests welcome. April 5- Melinda Sciandri, Executive Director, Southern Alameda County Dental Society: "Give Veterans a Smile;" April 8 - Orinda Rotary's Annual Spring Egg Hunt, April 12 - David Thorson, Executive Director, USO: "How today's USO is supporting our troops;" April 19 - Tovi Scruggs-Hussein: "Racial Healing and Allyship." April 22 Rotary Field Day at Miramonte Stadium.
Orinda Satellite Rotary Club. Second Wednesday, 12:15 p.m. Call Sylvia at 510.224.8548.
Orinda/Tabor (Czech Republic) Sister City Foundation. Fourth Thursday, 7 p.m., social, 7:30 p.m. meeting via Zoom. 925.254.8260.
Orinda Teen Advisory Council. Contact Recreation Coordinator Matt Delmartini at mdelmartini@cityoforinda.org.
Orinda Woman's Club. Second Tuesday, 9:30 a.m., Garden Room of Library. Email Jean Barnhart at jeanr.barnhart@gmail.com.

[SEE CLUBS page 22]

Buying and Selling in Lamorinda Is an Exciting Process!

You need a real estate agent that not only provides the confidence of experience and proven results but also a sensitivity to the process, listening to and addressing client needs every step of the way.

Call today to schedule your **Free Market Evaluation**



Jennie Swan
925-858-2856
j.swan@ggsir.com
LIC# 00991109

Golden Gate | **Sotheby's**
INTERNATIONAL REALTY
Each Franchise Is Independently Owned And Operated.

SERVING LAMORINDA SINCE 1979



Area Rug Cleaning Specialist

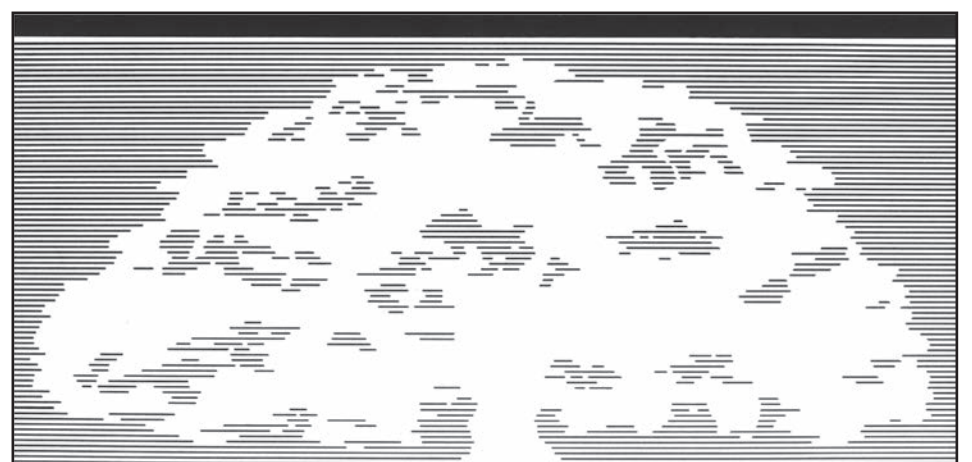
Area Rug Free Pick Up & Delivery

(925) 254-2866

www.kirbycarpetcleaning.com

Services include

- Carpets
- Tile & Grout
- Upholstery
- Outdoor Cushions



TREE SCULPTURE

COMPLETE TREE CARE

Proudly serving the East Bay since 1965!

Fully Insured ❖ Certified Arborists ❖ License #655977

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

CAR TIME / CLASSIFIEDS

CAR TIME

VARIOUS REASONS WHY PEOPLE DRIVE CERTAIN VEHICLES

XAVIER ESTRADA



Often people see a vehicle as an extension of themselves with a special meaning to them.

For others, the purchase or lease of a vehicle is a practical decision, considering it an appliance which serves a purpose.

People with an emotional investment to a brand are often enticed to become repeat customers.

Consumers compare brands and options to see what suits them best. Automotive journalism offers help with various statistics, such as price, fuel economy, features, interior and exterior space and reliability.

People with an emotional investment to a brand are often enticed to become repeat customers. Most car makers spend a lot of money in marketing and vehicle development on entry models for this reason.

An example is marketing to a college student or graduate who wants to purchase a reasonably priced new vehicle. A starter-package model is typically on this buyer's radar.

Manufacturers might over-build their base models in hopes to imbed its value and create loyalty. When the time comes to upgrade, buyers may reflect on how well the old vehicle served them and remain loyal customers.

This thought process goes across the board. Wanting to trade-in a sedan for an SUV, buyers might begin looking at the same brand before checking elsewhere. The same

is true when upgrading to a more premium product. The brand's luxury counterpart may be considered first. This type of strategy builds generational relationships. Some may remember how their parents or relatives held onto a certain vehicle for a long time or have fond memories tied to one.

The over-engineered era of vehicles was made famous by Japanese manufacturers in the late 20th century; during a time when emissions, fuel economy, reliability and price were highlighted as a result of the oil crisis in the 1970s.

In the 1990s, this reputation evolved when the Lexus LS400 and Acura NSX, made by Toyota and Honda respectively, sought the luxury and super car-buying sector with the same philosophy – pushing the status quo limits.

Some may be fascinated by a brand's history or racing pedigree, especially if they are a winning manufacturer. It is advertised as a way of owning a piece of the winning team. This could translate to something as simple as the badge or trickled-down engineering and feel – found in a car tracing its roots to racing.

Sometimes the look of a vehicle is a draw, much like an attraction to clothing or jewelry in the fashion industry. Others may gravitate to how a car feels when driving or how it is technologically advanced.

There are many factors as to why people choose to drive what they do. Often it is a combination of these elements and more.

Xavier Estrada can be reached at xavier.estrada.freelance@gmail.com.

◆ SHOPPER from page 15

the skin open on the end opposite where the bean is connected to the pod and gently squeeze the bean. The skin should slip right off.

Fresh fava beans deteriorate quickly, so use as soon as possible or refrigerate unwashed for a day or two. If longer storage is necessary or you find yourself with more than you can eat, simply shell, blanch and peel the beans. Freeze in a single layer on a tray and pack in airtight freezer bags.

A simple fava bean and microgreen crostini makes a delicious appetizer or snack. Add 1 cup of cooked fava beans (from about 1 pound of fava bean pods) to a food processor and pulse until very coarse. Add ¼ cup olive oil, ¼ cup fresh grated parmesan cheese, ¼ teaspoon grated lemon zest, 1 teaspoon fresh lemon

juice, salt and pepper. Pulse to combine. Empty into a bowl and fold in 1.5 cups of your favorite microgreens (broccoli, sunflower, beet). Spoon mixture onto crostini (12 to 15) and top with additional microgreens.

You'll find all your microgreen needs at the Green Organix stand at the Orinda Farmers' Market, all grown locally in Fairfield.

The Orinda Farmers' Market is open every Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Orinda Way in Orinda Village. For more information, visit www.cccfm.org facebook.com/OrindaFarmersMarket and Instagram @OrindaFarmersMarket or call the market hotline at 925.322.6228.

Barbara Kobsarcan be reached at Barbara@cotkitchen.com.

...classified ads

Wanted

Donate Your Vehicle to The Orinda Association. Very easy! Call 925.326.5868.

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.

Volunteer drivers needed for Seniors Around Town program in Orinda. Call 925.402.4506 for more info.

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

Orinda News classified ads

Your ad in The Orinda News reaches 9,000 households and businesses in Orinda!

2023

Publication Schedule

Issue	Deadline
May	April 8
June	May 8

Ad rates are \$5 per line \$10 minimum

Form available at: <https://bit.ly/3NUq7oP>

Enclose your check payable to *The Orinda Association* and mail to *The Orinda News*, P.O. Box 97, Orinda, CA 94563 or go online to www.theorindanews.org. We reserve the right to reject any ad. Classified ads must be prepaid. *Your cancelled check is your receipt. Ads can also be paid at <https://bit.ly/3NUq7oP>.*

◆ CALENDAR from page 18

- Orinda Library Poul Anderson Creative Writing Competition** deadline, midnight. See *News Briefs* p. 2.
- 15 **Orinda Association T-Shirt Contest** deadline. Students are invited to submit original designs to become the official Fourth of July and Orinda Classic Car Show T-Shirts for 2023. See article p. 17.
- Orinda Garden Club.** Plant Sale 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Orinda Library Plaza. Go to www.orindagc.org. See article p. 22.
- Chiller Diller Theatre** presents *Jason and the Argonauts*, 8:30 p.m. Orinda Theatre. www.orindamovies.com.
- 16 **Chromatica Chorale** presents *Faith, Hope, Music that Inspires* 4 p.m. at Holy Shepherd, 433 Moraga Way. For tickets go to www.chromaticchorale.org.
- 17 **2023 Congressional Art Competition** art submission deadline. See *News Briefs* p. 2.
- 20 **Orinda Intermediate School** students

- proudly present *Shrek JR.*. See photo p. 16.
- 22 **Rotary Field Day** partnering with the Miramonte Track Team to bring Orinda the 70th Frank Isola Rotary Field Day for 3-5th graders at Miramonte Stadium, 8 a.m. - noon. See *News Briefs* p. 2.
- Wildfire and Safety Preparedness Fair** Community Park, 28 Orinda Way from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Admission is free. See article p. 14.
- City of Orinda, Orinda Community Foundation and Orinda Woman's Club Action Day** 10 a.m. Orinda Library Plaza. Lend a hand to help clean up our City and beautify our community. Snacks and light lunch provided to volunteers.
- 23 **Live At the Orinda!** presents singer Christine Andreas. Orinda Theatre 5 p.m. See article p. 12.

Send calendar items to Jill Gelster at calendar@aspenconsult.net.

38 Years of Experience
No individual broker has **SOLD** more homes.



CLARK THOMPSON

REAL ESTATE BROKER
VILLAGE ASSOCIATES

Office: 925.254.8585 Cell: 925.998.7898
ct@clarkthompson.com
clarkthompson.com




License# 00903367



CASA ORINDA

RESTAURANT

Dinner served Wednesday through Sunday from 4 p.m.
Closed Monday & Tuesday

925.254.2981 ■ 20 Bryant Way ■ Orinda, CA 94563

ORINDA ART SCENE

◆ EVERYDAY from page 10

youthful faces of children, how they will soon reach maturity and take the wheel. Hence, it certainly behooves us if they are properly educated.

After rounding up 19 local students to deliver the lines “on set,” AKA, the Glorietta playground, the video was enthusiastically circulated amongst vot-

ers in the days before common usage of social media. Measure B, the parcel tax initiative of 2009, passed, protecting our schools.

I’m burying the lede here, but I want to leave you with a plea to watch our 2009 video here: bit.ly/3JHeuSk. See the list of all 19 students who participated below and learn “Where Are They Now?” Were the career predictions correct? Let’s just

say Guy Bommarito is a better writer than psychic.

Watch the video and read about where the students are now and it should make you feel good about our increased taxes after the recent Measure Z passage last month.

For herein lies the absolute magic: Every one of the 19 random Orinda students went on to top-notch universities, many seeking additional advanced

degrees. All grads are gainfully employed in a variety of impressive, cutting-edge occupations and all appear to be thriving.

Bottom line, do right by our Orinda schools and our Orinda schools will do right by you.

Mimi Bommarito can be reached at editor@theorindanews.com.

Where Are They Now?

Sawyer Essabhoy

University of California Santa Barbara, Class of 2022
BS, Computer Engineering
Systems Test Engineer

Hollyn Cetrone

Northwestern University, Class of 2019
BS, Neuroscience and Anthropology
Northwestern University, Feinberg School of Medicine
Masters, Public Health, Class of 2020
Lead Informaticist, Humana Healthcare

Michael Sorenson

University of California San Diego, Class of 2020
BS, Data Science
Masters, Data Science (in progress)
Data Analyst, Scripps Institution of Oceanography

Marin Bommarito

University of California Davis, Class of 2019
BA, Communication and Psychology
Product Marketing Manager, Docusign

Amanda Yuen

Johns Hopkins University, Class of 2022
BA, International Studies and Anthropology
Fulbright Teaching Award, Taiwan

Jack Crawford

Washington University, Class of 2019
BA, Cognitive Neuroscience
MS, Computer Science
UX Architect, Real Estate Journalist, Co-Founder of PropTech startup

Hannah Gunn

University of Arizona, Class of 2020
BS, Sociology
Recruiter, Oxford Global Resources

Analisa Pines

University of Notre Dame, Class of 2021
BA, American Studies
Senior Policy Assistant in Early Childhood Development, Child Trends
Commencing Master of Public Policy, Vanderbilt University, Fall 2023

Cole Crawford

Bowdoin College, Class of 2020
AB, History and Religion
Associate Director of Employer Relations, Bowdoin College

Kyra Bommarito

California Polytechnic State University
BA, Communication (in progress) Class of 2024

Griff Wright

University of Colorado Boulder, Class of 2021
BS, Strategic Communication/Media Design/Advertising
Technical Illustrator, Ball Aerospace

Ian Maltzer

Santa Clara University, Class of 2017
BS, Mechanical Engineering
Project Engineer, Whiting-Turner Contracting

Layla Wright

Tulane University
BS, Public Health (in progress) Class of 2023

Isaac Maltzer

San Diego State University, Class of 2013
BS, Integrated Marketing Communication
Associate Creative Director, ClickUp

Zee Yuen

Oberlin University and Conservatory
BS, Music Studies (in progress) Class of 2023

Nick Sheehan

University of California Berkeley, Class

of 2017

Hass School of Business
Enterprise Account Executive, Sanity.io

Rose Tuttle

California Polytechnic State University, Class of 2021
BA, Marketing
Enterprise Sales Representative, ServiceNow

Sam Essabhoy

University of Washington, Class of 2019
BS, Economics
The Peace Corps

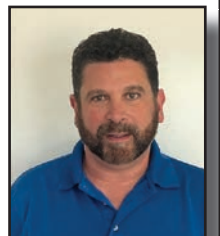
Zoe Bommarito

University of California Santa Barbara, Class of 2020
BA, Environmental Science and Applied Psychology
Client Partnership Manager, CJ Affiliate Marketing

Orinda Art Scene

APRIL IN THE ART GALLERIES AT THE ORINDA LIBRARY AND WILDER

DAVID FONSECA



Art Gallery at the Orinda Library: Abstract Paintings, Ceramics, Woodworks and Watercolors

The Orinda Library showcases the talents of local artists April 1–29 with a meet-the-artists reception April 8 from 3 p.m. – 5 p.m.

Richmond artist Jeffrey Sully (www.jeffreysully.com/gallery) shows his abstract paintings.

“My shaped paintings are abstract with a variety of sources from Turkish rugs, to cave paintings, to the first writing on tablets, to Japanese art and on to Abstract Expressionism,” said Sully. “There is, more recently, a psychological element incorporated into the work. The process of

my painting involves a vigorous working of materials, acrylic, paper, wood, string and other materials. I use brushes, water, electric tools and fire to manipulate the materials.”

Lafayette artist Donna Arganbright, Vice President and Gallery Manager of the Moraga Art Gallery (bit.ly/3JHih20), showcases her ceramics.

“I love to have my ceramic work taken home and used,” she said. “It gives me immense pleasure to have someone say they enjoyed their morning coffee in my mug or have fresh flowers in my vase or are serving food from one of my platters.”

Prize-winning Moraga artist George Ehrenhaft (www.mesart.com/gehrenhaft) once again exhibits his original watercolors at the library. His works are popular in many solo and group exhibits.

Grant Glossop (www.grantglossop.com) is exhibiting woodworks. Originally from Yorkshire, this Novato artist trained as a jeweler in the U.K. where he developed his passion for creating wood design with metals.

He used to design and create work for himself, but that changed during the pandemic, “Creating during quarantine helped me find some kind of balance during a challenging time.”

View and purchase their artwork at the reception or online at www.lamorindaarts.org/online-galleries/.

Art Gallery at Wilder: Figurative and Abstract Paintings

Award-winning Walnut Creek artist, Mary Claire Stotler, shares her figurative and abstract paintings this month at the Art

[SEE GALLERIES page 21]

The Medicine Shoppe
100% Pure PharmacySM

Hop on into The Medicine Shoppe[®] for all your health needs!

Naomi Yuen, Pharm D.
Pet Medicine Available
Next to Hollyhock and McCaulou's
282 Orinda Village Sq. • 254-1211
<http://orindamedicineshoppe.com>

KEN'S
REDWOOD FENCING
925.938.9836

Custom Quality Fencing
Good Neighbor Fence
Deer Fencing
Picket/Split Rail
Arbors and Trellises
Retaining Walls
Insurance/Storm Repairs

Licensed, Bonded & Insured.
CA #667491

19th Annual Orinda Classic Car Show

FEATURED CARS
LAND YACHTS

SEPT. 9
10 am - 2 pm

SAVE THE DATE

MORE INFO :
www.orindacarshow.com

The GRUBB Co.
REALTORS

Lafayette | Orinda | Moraga
Berkeley | Oakland | Piedmont

Rebecca Ciccio
LOCAL KNOWLEDGE MATTERS
917.482.6780
CalDRE#01891757
GRUBBCO.COM

BUSINESS BUZZ

Business Buzz: Anya's Kitchen Offers the Flavors of Indian Cuisine

By David Fonseca
Staff Writer

If you're in downtown Orinda, see crowds and inhale delicious aromas, then you're near the new local hotspot for Indian food at Anya's Kitchen. Vikram Aggarwal brought his expertise in Indian cuisine from his Anya's Deli in Berkeley to Orinda to the delight of many of our residents.

His new restaurant, in the former location of Reem's Steaks on Moraga Way, opened last year and serves popular and regional specialties.

"I'm from Punjab in India," said Aggarwal. "So, we do northern Punjabi food, meaning more spices and more flavor."

The restaurant is affectionately named after his daughter.

"I was thinking about a small name and not something like 'Taj Mahal' or a typical Indian restaurant name," said Aggarwal. "It's like a mom-and-pop shop name. It

sounds more family-oriented and not like the name of a franchise restaurant."

Aggarwal explained he and his brother previously owned a restaurant in Berkeley. Feeling the need to grow outside of Berkeley, he set his sights on Orinda.

"I felt like I wanted to be somewhere else and get a different clientele. There's a lot of competition there," he said.

In addition to higher rent, Aggarwal said Berkeley's student-oriented economy subjected him to seasonal lows. "At UC Berkeley, there's winter break in December and then later, summer break, so business is lower during those times," he said.

"Customers always say it's good food, good service and a clean restaurant," said Aggarwal. "It's an open kitchen and they love to watch us making their food and cooking naan bread. They love that stuff."

Known for their Chicken Tikka Masala, he said, "We do a very good Coconut



JEFF HEYMAN

Owner **Vikram Aggarwal** (right) serves spicy dishes with his employee **Jitender Kamboj**, at Orinda's newest hotspot for Indian food, Anya's Kitchen. Aggarwal said he loves the friendliness of the customers in Orinda. Anya's Kitchen (named after his daughter) is open daily in the Theatre Square neighborhood on Moraga Way.

Chicken Curry and Saag Paneer, which is cheese and spinach."

Vegetarian options are numerous and include favorites such as Paneer Tikka Masala and Malai Kofta. Aggarwal highly recommends Veggie Korma for vegetarian diners.

His restaurant also includes halal options with lamb and goat dishes.

Decorated with colorful upside-down umbrellas, Anya's Kitchen has a full menu and more than a dozen appetizers. There's a wide variety of naan, featuring both sweet and savory options.

"We have garlic naan, cheese naan,

chicken naan and we have lamb naan," he said. "We have a pesto naan that's a cheese naan topped with pesto sauce."

Aggarwal adores Orinda's patrons.

"I love it. The customers are so polite," he said. "There are just some very nice people around Orinda – very nice people."

Located at 70 Moraga Way, Anya's Kitchen is open daily, 11 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Visit www.anyakitchen.com. Entrees range from \$14 to \$18. Call 925.257.7021.

David Fonseca can be reached at davef52@gmail.com.

◆ GALLERIES from page 20

Gallery at Wilder.

"For me, abstract painting is a combination of memories, imagination and a bit of my soul," she wrote on her page on the Valley Art Gallery website (bit.ly/3mSW6gA). "I start with a design concept in mind, but it is just the beginning of this emotional journey that evolves on the canvas."

Stotler is a multimedia artist and her interest spans pottery, photography and

watercolor. She's exhibited her work for more than a decade in the Bay Area and is recognized for her abstract work in galleries and exhibits.


The Wilder Art and Garden Center is located at 20 Orinda Fields Lane. Schedule a viewing by appointment with Curator Ani Breslin at anistonbreslin@berkeley.edu. For more information, call the Lamorinda Arts Council at 925.359.9940.

David Fonseca can be reached at davef52@gmail.com.



DONNA ARGANBRIGHT

This whimsical ceramic set by **Donna Arganbright** of the Moraga Art Gallery is part of a larger collection of works exhibited this month at the Orinda Library. Arganbright loves to have her ceramic work taken home and used.



Time to start running your business on the internet

Still writing paper checks or printing invoices? Worried about transaction fees or late payments? There's a better way.

We work with your bank so you don't have to. The simple, fast, and free tool for any business to pay and get paid.

Check us out at tolahq.com or call 925 255 9060



Spring FORWARD

SAVE ON STORAGE & RECEIVE

50% OFF

FOR 2 MONTHS DURING THE MONTH OF APRIL

WE SELL BOXES & PACKING SUPPLIES

Hours of operation
Mon-Sat 7am -6pm
Sundays 10am-4pm



455 Moraga Rd. Ste. F
(925) 643-2060
www.5Aspace.com





rayrobinson.attorney

PROBATE ATTORNEY

- Probate/Trust Administration
- Wills/Trusts
- Conservatorships
- Financial Elder Abuse
- Inheritance Disputes

www.rayrobinson.attorney
925-255-1640
ray@rayrobinson.attorney



PLANT SALE / SPRING EGG HUNT

Orinda Garden Club Plant Sale has Something for Everyone

By BOBBIE DODSON
Staff Writer

It's time for the Orinda Garden Club's (OGC) Annual Plant Sale, April 15 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the Orinda Library Plaza. Members will sell plants and associated garden products, including California Native plants.

"Natives are always a 'go-to' option, as they tend to require less water, fertilizer and pesticides," said Jean Rowe, club member. "They often create a natural habitat for our pollinators, such as bees, birds and butterflies. They are rarely invasive and help preserve our natural biodiversity."

Informational tables offer experts and paraphernalia where club members and

Master Gardeners will answer questions about plants, Learn about California Natives and Fire-Safe Landscaping.

Moraga Garden Club member Jessica Fleming is selling milkweed plants as part of her "Saving our Monarchs" display. This is the only plant monarch caterpillars feed on, so they are critical for their survival. She will answer questions about how to attract monarchs to gardens.

Most of the plants were propagated by OGC members at workshops held during the fall and winter. Members learned how to propagate from cuttings and how to plant and grow veggies and flowers from seed.

Club member, Sue Anderson Berger, said she likes to grow special and unique varieties of tomatoes.

"I always select for fabulous flavor and great production," she said. "Growing multiples of these tomato varieties have allowed me to share with friends, Miramonte High School teachers and staff, the Lafayette Community Garden and the OGC Plant Sale. On average, I propagate 1200 tomato plants, lots of peppers, summer and winter squash, beans and herbs, along with flowers for my bees and other pollinators."

Member Alyssa Harris said she's loved gardening since she was young. "It feels

like a miracle that a tiny seed can turn into a huge, juicy tomato, bunches of kale or vases of flowers," she said. "Propagating by division and cuttings is equally as fun. It's getting tons of free plants from the plants that you already have."

Relatively new to propagating, Rowe said she's hooked on it.

"I propagate mostly by cuttings – mother nature is truly amazing when we can take a small piece from one plant to create a new one," she said. "I ended up propagating more than 100 perennials for the sale. I tried many new varieties. My biggest successes [SEE OGC page 24]

◆ CLUBS from page 18

Road Runners. Meet 5:45 a.m. Tues., at Papilion, 67 Lafayette Circle, Lafayette, Wed., Gepetos, 87 Orinda Way, Thur., SiSI, 910 Country Club Drive, Moraga and Fri., Starbucks, 470 Moraga Road, Rheem. Contact John Fazel at runmnts@prodigy.net.

Sons in Retirement (SIR). Lamorinda Branch 174, second Wednesday at 11:30 a.m. For info, call Tyler at 925.963.5741 or Bill at 925.963.0442 or www.branch174.sirinc2.org.

Send club listings to Jill Gelster at calendar@aspenconsult.net.


Spring Egg Hunt



RODNEY LAL FROM 2022

Rotary Club of Orinda and the City of Orinda host its annual Spring Egg Hunt Saturday, April 8 at the Orinda Community Center Park located at 28 Orinda Way (playfield area across from Rite Aid). The free event runs from 10:30 a.m. – noon, with the hunt beginning promptly at 11 a.m. This is for toddlers, kindergartners, first and second graders. Hundreds of eggs are scattered around the park for children to gather in their baskets – participants bring their own baskets. Most eggs contain a small prize, but a few contain a certificate for a giant basket, filled with candies and toys. In addition to the egg hunt, there are games and refreshments, plus photos with the Big Spring Bunny from 10:45 a.m. to noon. Visit <https://orindarotary.org/> for more information.

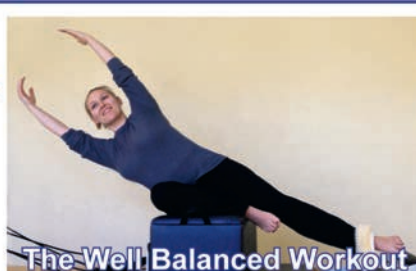
PILATES



CoreKinetics
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



CAROLINE GILMAN LA VOIE

Orinda Garden Club's Annual Plant Sale is April 15, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m., located at the Orinda Library Plaza. The event has something for everyone, including plants, birdhouses and various garden products.

- SUSTAINABLE CONTRA COSTA PRESENTS -

WHICH CITY WILL BE THE WINNER?

LAFAYETTE VS MORAGA VS ORINDA

APRIL 3 - MAY 14
LAMORINDA

Learn more at our kickoff event at the Lafayette Library on Tuesday, March 28 @ 5:30pm!



Earn points for your city on the Cleaner Contra Costa Challenge!



ZERO WASTE CHALLENGE

REGISTER HERE: [TINYURL.COM/ZEROWASTE2023](https://tinyurl.com/zerowaste2023)



SPONSORED BY:



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:













Real estate is a numbers game. Mine have been pretty good.

2022	25	\$56M	13 th	2 nd	21
	Transactions	Sales	Year in real estate	Ranked Individual agent in Orinda	Years living local

If you are thinking of buying or selling in the Lamorinda area this week, this month, or this year, give me a call. I specialize in bringing buyers and sellers together to create happy moments!



925.980.3829
Shannon@ShannonConner.com
ShannonConner.com
DRE# 01885058

SHANNON CONNER

ORINDA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Orinda Historical Society Museum Open for Visitors and Volunteers

By CHARLEEN EARLEY
Editor-in-Chief

Instead of a ghost town, the Orinda Historical Society (OHS) museum was more like a ghost office when President Alison Burns jumped in and revamped it during the mid-pandemic lockdown.

She and the nine other volunteer OHS board members brought it back to life – historically speaking.

Located at 26 Orinda Way, next door to The Orinda Association and behind Café Teatro, Burns was excited to get the museum in shape for public consumption.

“It was a pretty blank slate when I got hold of it and I love that I’ve been able to turn it around and actually point out to Orindans that such a thing exists,” said Burns, who lives in Orinda with her husband Patrick.

Exposure helped when the OHS enjoyed

a well-positioned booth at the Sept. 2022 Car Show. “One person later told me that his mother has lived in Orinda since 1971 and only learned Orinda had a historical society when she saw us in the middle of the road at the car show,” said Burns. “So, what I love – is a Brit making Orindans aware of their history.”

Born in England, she moved to California from Singapore, was president of the Encinitas Historical Society in North San Diego County and has called Orinda home since 2015.

Burns said the Orinda Historical Society was established in 1970. The museum showcases various books, photos, plaques, old menus, T-shirts, mortar, pestles and items going back to Native Americans.

“We have an 18th century Spanish cannonball which was dug up in a 20th century Orinda backyard,” said Burns.

She wants to see what else is out there



JEFF HEYMAN

Orinda Historical Society Vice President **Cheryl Cechvala** (L), her daughter **Ida Schultz**, the youngest volunteer and President **Alison Burns** (R) are excited the museum is open again to share Orinda’s history and artifacts with the community.

– to be showcased in the OHS museum.

“We don’t have nearly as much as we need,” said Burns. “I’ve started sending out appeals to people emptying out their attics, basements and garages for anything they think deserves to be seen by the rest of the community.”

In addition to acquiring more artifacts for the museum, Burns would also like to collect more volunteers.

“We need volunteers. We need anyone who’s interested in disseminating information about Orinda’s history,” said Burns. “We’d also like them to talk to people, show them our modest collection, help with computers, answer phones – basically whatever interests them the most. Many of them have probably lived in Orinda longer than I have, so we’d just like their knowledge. I would like people to work in pairs,

to make sure it’s safe.”

Burns, who published her book, *Orinda*, last summer, has high hopes for the future growth of OHS and its team of volunteers.

“I have a wonderful team behind me, they’re so enthusiastic, knowledgeable, gifted and keen to make this work,” she said. “There’s so much I don’t know and they’re teaching me. Together we’re going to turn OHS into something the whole town can be proud of. And I love that Parks and Recs are behind us all the way.”

Museum hours are every Thursday from 3 – 5 p.m. and the last Saturday of the month from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more information about OHS or for volunteering, email info@orindahistory.org.

Charleen Earley can be reached at editor@theorindanews.com.

Pet of the Month



TODD ADLER

“Mochi has been helping out in our home office since we started working from home,” said **Todd Adler**. “He gets paid in chest rubs and chew sticks and takes his job guarding the premises from deer very seriously.”

Anxious?
Uncertain?
Overwhelmed?

HospiceEastBay.org
You're not alone.

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.

**Right coverage.
Right price.
Right here in town.**

Bryan A Silveira, Agent
Insurance Lic#: 0M13551
23 Orinda Way
Orinda, CA 94563
Bus: 925-317-3804

Here’s the deal. The right insurance should help you feel confident and comfortable. I’m the right good neighbor for that. Call me today.

Like a good neighbor,
State Farm is there.®

State Farm
Bloomington, IL
2001290

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR

It Takes a Village: A Conversation with OCF President Richard Westin

By ANDREA MADISON
Staff Writer

As president of the Orinda Community Foundation, what do you see as the most vital community events the foundation sponsors?

Yearly, we publicize funds available for local nonprofits seeking money for particular causes or events within our community. We never know what the requests will be. Some years the requests exceed \$100,000.

Events and programs we support are Fourth of July Parade, Lamorinda Idol, Concerts in the Park, Live At the Orinda!, Seniors Around Town and the Garden Club. We also support the Moraga Adobe, the oldest building in Contra Costa County. We're providing the Adobe with funds to buy the property.

As an Orinda resident for 50 years, what are some of the biggest changes you have seen in the city?

The City hasn't changed much. Some people think it's wonderful, some think we need an update. I will leave those decisions for the planning commission, city council and the voters to decide.

Agemark, a company which provides senior living facilities, which you co-founded in 1987, is opening a memory care facility in Orinda. How is that project coming along?

It's going to be a beautiful building. My guess is it will be a 2025 opening. That will be our 31st location. It's called "Country-House at Wilder."

I used to be a lawyer but left the profession because it didn't provide enough

emotional pull for me. Taking care of seniors and their families for me is a game changer. We get to provide fun and passionate care for seniors who desperately need our love and services every day. What a joy!

Travel and photography are two of your hobbies. Where is your favorite place to go and what kind of photos do you take there?

My favorite place in the world for scenery is Patagonia. My favorite style of photo is unposed head shots of people going about living their lives. Adding one more category: Most wonderful place on earth ... New Zealand.

You've coached kids' teams in lacrosse, baseball, basketball, softball and tennis. You're 81 and still coaching, including your 14th year as tennis coach at Miramonte High School. What do you love about coaching youth sports?

I have always loved children and sports, so being a coach is the natural confluence of these two passions.

What do you think makes Orinda special?

The picturesque environment, schools and wonderful neighbors. We have that rare combination of being the closest Contra Costa community to San Francisco, while being the most (semi) rural. It is this wonderful combination that makes Orinda so appealing.

What drives your deep and continuous service to the community?

I was fortunate to be named Orinda's 2012 Citizen of the Year. That was, for



JEFF HEYMAN

Longtime Orinda resident and 2012 Citizen of the Year, **Richard Westin**, treasures travel, photography and volunteer work. He has spent years coaching youth sports and is currently the Orinda Community Foundation President.

me, really a wonderful moment in my life. Volunteering for various committees or commissions this past half-century are a central part of who I am.

What advice can you give Orinda citizens who are looking for ways to increase their involvement with the community?

Show up. [There are] lots of events the Orinda Community Foundation

helps sponsor.

My advice is, be a part of the life in this community and you will not only enrich your own life, but enrich the lives of all of us, because as the saying goes: it takes a village to create that special feeling we call "home"... Orinda.

Andrea Madison can be reached at drea.madison.05@gmail.com.

◆ OGC from page 22

were salvia, penstemon, hydrangeas, lavenders and herbs."

The sale features vegetables and herbs including more than 20 varieties of hard-to-find tomatoes from Berger's collection, hot and sweet peppers, squash, beans and herbs.

"There's also a selection of annuals, including sunflowers, cosmos and zinnias," said Rowe.

Featured are birdhouses by Greg Moeller

of Lafayette and fun garden-related accessories. McDonnell's Nursery is selling various products and the Orinda Library has an assortment of used garden books for sale.

"We look forward to gathering as a community to celebrate plants, gardening and our environment," said Linda Thompson, Orinda Garden Club Co-President.

Bobbie Dodson can be reached at bobbiedodson109@gmail.com.

POISON OAK & BRUSH CLEARING

Got juniper, poison oak or other brush near your home? Call us before April 30 to take advantage of our off-peak rates!



Get a free consultation and price quote for making your property fire safe.



**OAKLAND HILLS
BRUSH CLEARING**