



# THE ORINDA NEWS

Gratis  
Volume 37, Number 8

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Delivered to 9,000 Households and Businesses in Orinda

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August 2022

## 4th of July Recap



JEFF HEYMAN

This year's 4th of July celebration was a rousing success starting with the fun run and pancake breakfast. The festivities continued with the parade winding through the Theatre District before crossing under the freeway and entering the Village District. For more photos and information on parade winners, go to Pages 10-11.

## Candidates for November Election Must File by Aug. 12

By SALLY HOGARTY  
Executive Editor

Three is the magic number this November with the Orinda City Council, the Orinda Union School District (OUSD) and the Moraga-Orinda Fire Department (MOFD) all having three positions available in the Nov. 8 general election.

The City Council is responsible for establishing policy, passing ordinances, voting on appropriations and has overall authority in the city government. The five elected officials serve staggered four-year terms with the Council meeting on the first and third Tuesday of each month.

The OUSD's Board of Trustees functions as the legislative body of the district and establishes policies and goals by which the school district is operated. Five citizens are elected to serve overlapping terms of four years each. They generally meet on the second Monday of each

[SEE CANDIDATES page 17]

## Dancing With The Cars – A Night in Havana: Fundraiser, Party and Auction

By MELISSA ROEDER  
Contributing Writer

Dancing with the Cars, The Rotary Club of Orinda's major annual fundraiser and kick-off to the Orinda Classic Car Show Weekend, features a Latin theme, "A Night in Havana," at the Orinda Community Center, upper level plaza of the Orinda Library, Friday, Sept. 9, from 6 to 8:30 p.m.

This party is Orinda's largest community-wide fundraiser, benefitting Orinda schools, seniors, youth programs, Orinda Parks and Rec programs and the arts and environment, among other local

programs.

Through the years, Dancing with the Cars and the Orinda Classic Car Show together have distributed over \$400,000 to the community.

The evening features a generous Cuban-inspired buffet, cocktails, Latin music and more.

Silent and live auctions offer dinner parties, gift certificates, outings and other treats. Visit [orindarotary.org](http://orindarotary.org) for tickets, or email [orindarotaryfundraiser@gmail.com](mailto:orindarotaryfundraiser@gmail.com) for more details.

With Rotary's participation, the proceeds from this event reach beyond Orinda's

[SEE DANCING page 19]



COURTESY OF MELISSA ROEDER

The Rotary Club of Orinda hosts its annual Dancing with the Cars fundraiser, a kick-off to the Orinda Classic Car Show weekend. The fundraiser, called "A Night in Havana," will be held at the Orinda Community Center, upper level plaza, Friday, Sept. 9, 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

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# The 18th Annual Orinda Classic Car Show

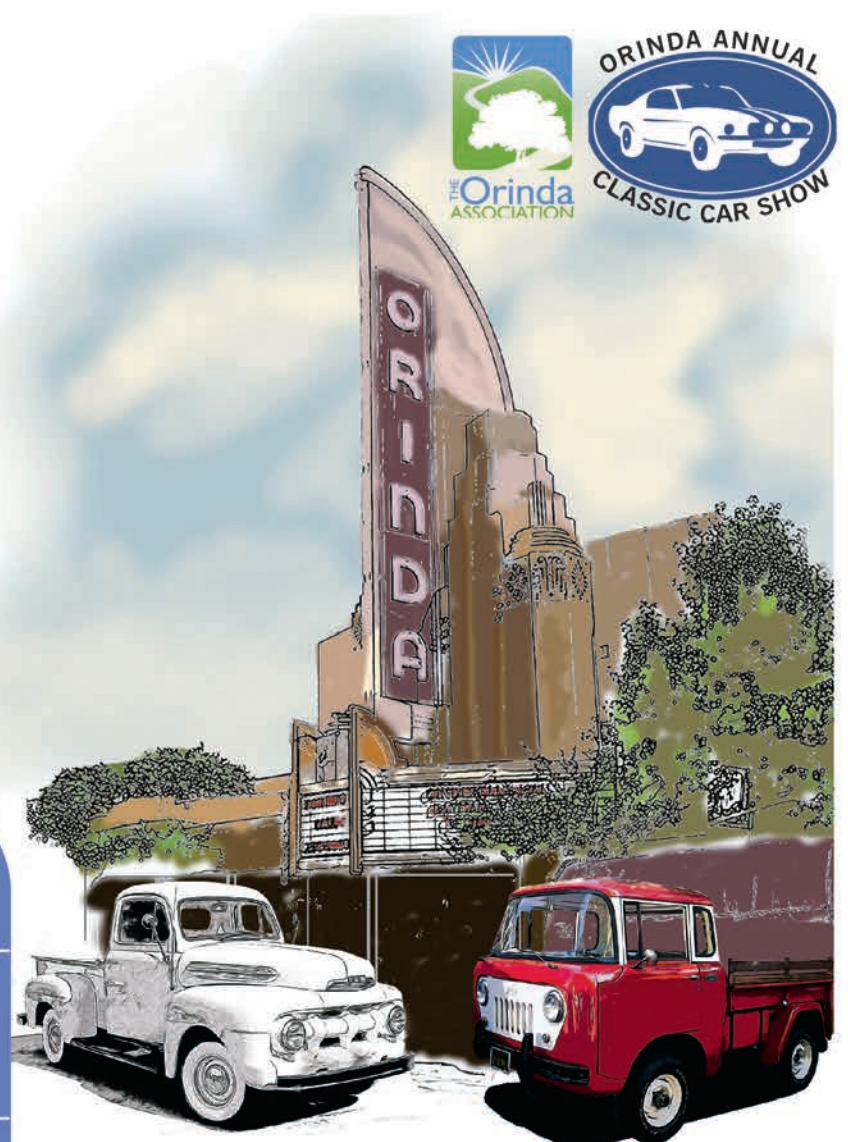
Friday Night Pre-Party,  
**September 9th, 6 - 8:30pm**  
**DANCING WITH THE CARS**

Saturday,  
**September 10, 10am–2pm**  
 Benefiting The Orinda Association  
 Seniors Around Town Transportation Program.

**Car Owners: Only half of available slots remain. Enter your vehicle soon!**

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

Visit [www.OrindaCarShow.com](http://www.OrindaCarShow.com) for current entry information. Join us as a spectator – **Admission is FREE!**



## Enter Your Car Today at [www.OrindaCarShow.com](http://www.OrindaCarShow.com)

**Friday**  
**September 9th, 6 - 8:30pm**  
**DANCING WITH THE CARS**  
**FRIDAY NIGHT PRE-PARTY**

This year's theme is  
**A Night in Havana!**

Keep on Truckin' – Cuban style! Mark your calendars for the evening of September 9th from 6-8:30 pm when our Classic Car Show kick-off offers fun, music, food, and fabulous auction items to benefit a variety of service projects sponsored by Orinda Rotary. [orindarotaryfundraiser@gmail.com](mailto:orindarotaryfundraiser@gmail.com) for tickets and information - Car Show entrants receive a discount!

**Saturday**  
**September 10th, 10am - 2pm**  
**Free Admission**  
**18TH ANNUAL ORINDA CLASSIC CAR SHOW**

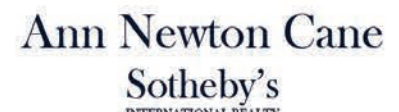
Presenting sponsor for this event is **Orinda Motors**.

- The show is held in Orinda Village around Orinda Motors and on Orinda Way
- 200+ classic and modern exotic cars, trucks and unique motorcycles
- See a Special Exhibit of Classic Stock and Resto-Mod Pick-Up Trucks
- Lamorinda Idol Winners performance at noon
- **Arriving at 1pm, there will be an outstanding exhibit of original Shelby Cobras**
- Enjoy fabulous Food Truck offerings
- Loard's Ice Cream available
- Buy a 2022 Car Show T-Shirt
- Special Raffle Prizes too!

Car Show proceeds benefit The Orinda Association and our Seniors Around Town ride program.



### ORINDA CLASSIC CAR SHOW SPONSORS



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THE ORINDA ASSOCIATION

A Message From the President  
On to the Car Show!



Sally Hogarty

What a 4th of July we had in Orinda! The weather was perfect, the entries colorful and the crowd enthusiastic.

A very special thank you to my parade co-chair Marianne Moser, who pulled together all the incredible volunteers (many showing up at 6 a.m. to set up the sound system and pop-up tents) as well as coordinating the great decorations and much more. The parade would not have happened without you!

I also want to thank the City of Orinda for all their support. The City's police force coordinated with our volunteers to keep everyone safe while Parks and Rec Director Todd Trimble and Facilities and Park Supervisor Steve Ehrhardt and their crew not only set up the pancake breakfast but helped us out when little emergencies happened before, during and after the parade. Marianne and I can't thank them enough. Whenever we yelled "help," Todd and Steve responded immediately!

If you were not able to purchase one of our Orinda trucker hats (we sold out at the parade!), you can order online at [www.orindaassociation.org](http://www.orindaassociation.org) or stop by the OA office in the Library Plaza, directly across from the elevator. We're open Monday – Friday from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m.

With the 4th of July a pleasant memory, it's now time to ramp up for The Orinda Association's Classic Car Show. This year's event takes place Sept. 10 from 10 a.m.

until 2 p.m.

The 18th Orinda Classic Car Show has the same theme as the 4th of July – Keep on Truckin.' Actually, the 4th of July committee stole the theme from the car show! A special exhibit of vintage pick-up trucks (stock and custom or resto-mod) as well as exotic, electric vehicles is planned by co-chairs Bill Waterman and Jill Gelster and their hard-working committee of car enthusiasts.

The event kicks off with Orinda Rotary's Dancing with the Cars Sept. 9 from 6 – 8:30 p.m. at the Orinda Community Center's Upper Plaza Level. "A Night in Havana" is the fun theme and features a spicy evening of food, fun and (of course) fundraising for a variety of community projects that benefit our schools, our seniors, local arts programs and more. For more details, go to [orindarotaryfundraiser@gmail.com](mailto:orindarotaryfundraiser@gmail.com).

Those who wish to enter their trucks, cars or motorcycles in the Saturday car show can still do so at [www.orindacarshow.com](http://www.orindacarshow.com).

Proceeds from the car show benefit the OA's Seniors Around Town (SAT) program as well as other local charities. SAT has provided over 1,000 free rides to Orinda seniors in both 2020 and 2021 and is on track to provide an even greater number for 2022.

For more information on the car show, please go to [www.orindacarshow.com](http://www.orindacarshow.com) or [www.orindaassociation.org](http://www.orindaassociation.org).



SALLY HOGARTY

Here are two of the incredible volunteers who arrived at 6 a.m. to put out delineators and caution tape for the parade as well as stack numerous bales of hay onto trucks for various parade entries.

The Orinda Association

The Orinda Association is a not-for-profit corporation dedicated to:

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

Visit our office at 26 Orinda Way  
(Library Plaza)  
Phone: 925.254.0800  
[www.OrindaAssociation.org](http://www.OrindaAssociation.org)

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



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RESIDENTS / CARTOON

# Orinda Chef Sharon Girdlestone Nourishes the Hopes of Ukrainians

## Local Chef Brings Comfort Food to Hungry Ukrainians

By DAVID FONSECA  
Contributing Writer

Orinda Chef Sharon Girdlestone made a special trip this May, using her cooking skills to help Ukrainian refugees. She returned nine days later, after working in a commercial kitchen in Przemysl, directly on the Polish-Ukrainian border.

Originally from Northern England, Girdlestone has called Orinda her home since 2013. The chef explained she had time to go after selling her Lamorinda culinary business, My Sustainable Table, which also fed the unhoused in Concord for the last four years.

Visionary humanitarian Chef José Andrés, who founded the World Central Kitchen (WCK) in 2010, inspired Girdlestone.

“Every time there’s a crisis in any country, he has boots on the ground within days to feed people,” said Girdlestone. “The amount of people he and his team have fed is beyond amazing.”

She added, “I’ve always followed Chef José and was looking at WCK opportunities on LinkedIn. I found several opportunities, but I saw they had a great need in the kitchen in Poland. I decided I should go to where they really need the help.”

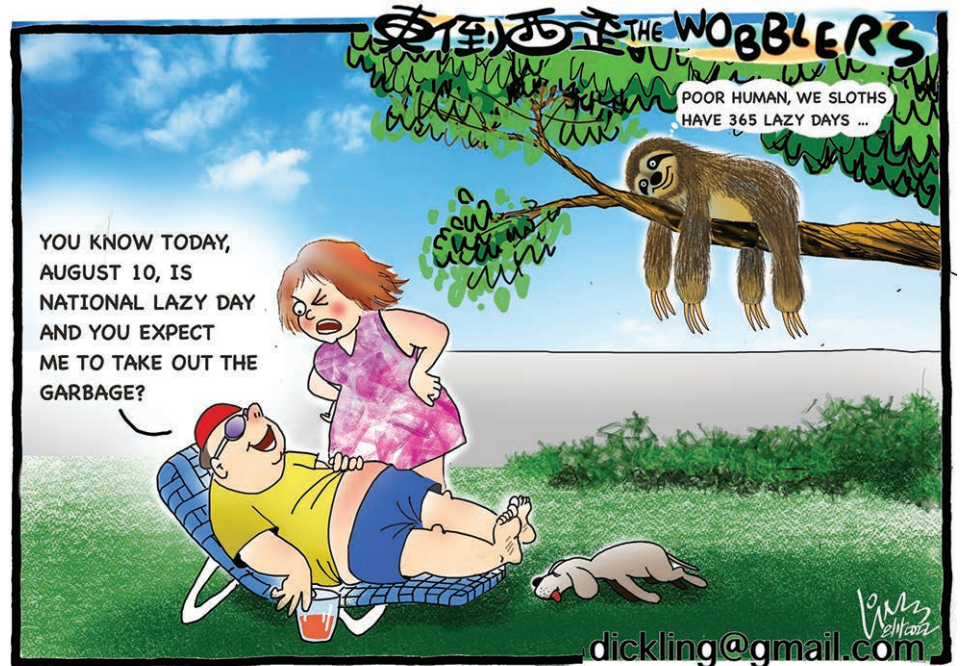
Girdlestone said there were about 35 chefs in the kitchen daily, and they hire celebrity chefs to run the program.

“It was an amazing experience,” she said. “Master Chef Noah Sims was our leader. He was very emotional, very outspoken,



SHARON GIRDLESTONE

The “kitchen heroes” working hard to provide meals to Ukrainians fleeing the war. Sharon Girdlestone and her new lifelong friends assisted the World Central Kitchen in their efforts to feed the refugees.



but also very inspiring and positive. That’s someone you want to be in charge in a place like that.”

Given the devastating war at hand, she had ideas of what the environment might feel like.

“I thought I was going to be upset at the scenes there, but the way that the WCK is set up, they don’t want you to turn up depressed and panicked about what’s going on down the highway. They make it very pleasant,” she said.

Girdlestone explained how they started making 2,000 sandwiches an hour using a production line, when they felt they could do more.

“Our team decided we could do 3,000 an hour, and we did it!” she said. “It was a nice bonding experience. It was a group effort and an amazing experience. We’re all still in touch daily, despite everyone being all over the world.”

Each day, WCK took food to the border-crossing town of Medyka and to a former

grocery store, now turned humanitarian center. They also took food to a train station, which was greatly appreciated by arriving Ukrainians.

“Even when they were coming in on the train with nothing, they were smiling,” said Girdlestone. “They were grateful. Some hadn’t eaten in a few days.”

She said the experience was moving.

“I was impressed with the refugees’ resilience, the stories they told,” said Girdlestone. “WCK had Ukrainian and Polish women working in the kitchen with us and they were smiling and saying that, even in such a horrible situation, the world is on their side. They’re so resilient; I was shocked. There’s no moaning. No complaining. Just strong, compassionate people.”

She further explained one of the Ukrainian women said she has a brother fighting in the war and she sometimes sneaks across the border – as some other refugees do – to

[SEE CHEF page 20]

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NEWS BRIEFS / POLICE

# Orinda News Briefs: What's Happening Around Town

## Election Results for Senator Steve Glazer's Run for State Controller

District 7 State Senator Steve Glazer, D-Orinda, ran for California State Controller in the June 12 Primary Election. With election results certified statewide July 15, Glazer finished fourth with a bit more than 11% of votes cast. Lanhee Chen (Rep) with just over 37% of the vote will face off against Malia M. Cohen (Dem), who finished with just under 23%, on the November ballot to win election.

Glazer ran with a pledge never to accept gifts or travel from special interests and with a platform highlighted by holding PG&E accountable for starting fires, taking on the gun lobby to ban assault weapons, protecting small business against on unfair practices of big lenders and banning big tobacco from marketing to children.

## Celebrating and Supporting a Historic Olive Grove in Orinda's Backyard

The Orinda Nature Area is home to one of the oldest olive groves in Contra Costa County, with approximately 50 olive trees first planted in 1882 by Theodore Wagner, the first Surveyor General of California.

These trees continue to produce hundreds of pounds of olives. Lack of funding for tree maintenance and pruning, as well as specialized expertise and equipment, prevents these olives from being harvested routinely.

This year, the Friends of the Orinda Nature Area in collaboration with support of the East Bay Tree Service ([www.eastbaytreeservice.com](http://www.eastbaytreeservice.com)) and Oleoscape Olive Oil, are working to restore the health and beauty of these heirloom trees by launching the Adopt a Historic Olive Tree program, aimed at raising funds for



MARYAM ASGARI

Donors gathering at the Historic Olive Tree dedication ceremony.

preservation.

The Adopt-a-Tree program was the brainchild of U.C. Berkeley student Arman Marchiel, under the mentorship of U.C. Berkeley Emeritus Professor Dr. Reginald Barrett.

There are roughly 24 trees available for adoption. For more information about adopting a tree or supporting the program, visit <https://www.fwrna.org/donate>.

## The Orinda News Ukraine Story Grabs Local News Stations' Attention

"Local Resident of Ukrainian Descent Helps War-Weary Ukrainians," a story published last month in *The Orinda News*, garnered the attention of KRON4, KTVU and NBC Bay Area on evening newscasts.

The story featured Sari Heyman and her efforts to assist Ukrainian refugees on the ground. Heyman was also interviewed Sunday, July 10, on KTVU's "Mornings on 2," and later picked up by Yahoo News. View the segment coverage here: <https://www.ktvu.com/video/1091131>.



# POLICE BLOTTER

June 15 through July 15

## Calls for Service

- Battery: 3 incidents
- Burglary, Commercial: 3 incidents:  
Camino Sobrante, Orinda Way (2)
- Burglary, Residential: 3 incidents:  
Bobolink Rd., Stein Way, Monte Veda
- Death - Non-Criminal: 2 incidents
- Failure to Obey Officer: 1 incident
- Found Property: 2 incidents
- Felony Credit Card Fraud: 1 incident
- Grand Theft Vehicle Parts: 1 incident:  
Brookwood Rd.
- Hit & Run Misdemeanor: 1 incident:  
Barbara Rd.
- Identity Theft: 3 incidents
- Outside Assist: 2 incidents
- Service to Citizen: 2 incidents

- Shoplifting: 1 incident: Camino Pablo
- Tow: 1 incident
- Vandalism - Felony: 1 incident
- Vehicle Theft: 1 incident: Moraga Way

## Arrests

- Driving Under the Influence - Misdemeanor: 2 arrests
- Possession of Dangerous Drugs: 1 arrest
- Violation of Probation - Weapon Possession: 2 arrests
- Recovered Stolen Vehicle: 1 recovery
- Warrant Arrest: 3 arrests

— Compiled by David Dierks  
Assistant Editor



JEFF HEYMAN

Last month, **Claudine Wong** (left), co-anchor for KTVU's Mornings on 2, interviewed **Sari Heyman** (right), an Orinda resident first featured in *The Orinda News*, who, with the support of her Orinda neighbors, raised funds to help Ukrainian refugees.

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EDITORIAL

# Editorial

## My First Orinda 4th of July Parade and Festivities Deliver on All Counts

BY CHARLEEN EARLEY  
Editor-in-Chief

I've been with *The Orinda News* team for 23 months now and, due to pandemic delays, was not able to attend Orinda's past 4th of July parades until now.

Boy, was I pleasantly surprised and thrilled beyond measure. My excitement was about as high as the day's talented stilt-walkers, to say the least.

I was one of the judges at the pop-up tent covering the announcer's table with our Executive Editor Sally Hogarty, Audio Technician Steven Kroeger of Brentwood, Announcer Scott Butler and the famous Steve Hardwood perched at my side.

Harwood enjoyed a stop-and-hug moment with his grandkids, daughter and son-in-law while announcing and said they are new Orindans, from Michigan and would love some Orinda friends! I thought that was cute.

I understand announcer Bill Cosden was at the other end of town, Theatre Square, doing his thing.

I snapped over 180 photos on my android in between judging parade participants, but don't be too impressed, since our newest photographer, Jeff Heyman, captured over 2,700! He was everywhere. Looking at some of his photos, I got the feeling he was Superman.

I had the pleasure of elbow-bumping some Orindans we write about on a regular basis, including Mayor Dennis Fay. I also spent time with Social Media Coordinator Kaylee Deland of Livermore, and District



CHARLEEN EARLEY  
Former City Councilmember, **Bobbie Landers**, with her dog **Tigger**, enjoyed the pancake breakfast before the 36th Annual Orinda 4th of July parade began.

Representative for Congressman DeSaulnier.

I met with Deland in the Library Plaza where the pancake breakfast was held. While sipping on a cup of coffee with the cutest scalloped purse I ever obsessed over, Deland said she was delighted to represent the Congressman at Orinda's 36th Annual 4th of July parade since DeSaulnier had three other events that day.

"I'm enjoying spending time with everybody here," she said, before revealing where she bought her purse.

I walked around asking parade-goers and volunteers why they attended this year's parade in Orinda.

"It's fun," said Michelle Shen of Orinda, an eleventh-grade student currently attending a school in Hong Kong. She wanted to make sure I knew she previously attended Campolindo High School.

Shen worked the Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary coffee station with her friend Isabelle Culinco, an upcoming ninth grader at Campolindo, who said, "It's fun to meet people here."

It was a joy to meet "the" Bobbie Landers and her regal, approachable and pet-loving dog Tigger.

"I love honoring the fact that we are all fortunate to live in this great country," said Landers, who, after enjoying the pancake breakfast, watched from the sidelines, her daughter Merrily walk with her puppy Whitney and daughter Holly, march with the All-Volunteer Orinda Pick-up Marching Band, playing her Mellophone.

Parade attendee Aurora Betancourt from San Pablo, said "We came for the pancake breakfast, and it brings the community

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CHARLEEN EARLEY  
Annual attendees of Orinda's 4th of July parade (L-R) **Kristen**, holding son **Callan** with husband **Kamran** and **Delaney Javandel** (holding the American flag), were happy to attend this year's parade. Delaney was also excited her friend **Monica** was about to join them.

together. We are grateful that we live in a country where we can come together like this, as a community."

I bought five children's books at the Orinda Friends of the Library book sale for \$2 each (hardbound covers, in mint condition) for my two grandkids, and a couple of paperback books for me, one titled, "Women Know Everything!" It's a collection of over 3,000 quips, quotes and brilliant remarks from famous women.

I met Anna, Isaac and Form Miller, who sat directly across from the band, and said they've lived in Orinda for 10 years and love attending the annual parade.

"It's so entertaining and quaint, and we love the band," said Anna Miller.

Kamran, Kristen, son Callan and daughter Delaney Javandel said they've been attending Orinda's parades since 2012.

"We love coming for the breakfast and seeing all our friends," said Kamran. "We love pretty much everything."

Delaney added, "And my friend Monica is coming!"

Phil and Cathleen Hoffman sat directly across from the judges' table to enjoy the parade with their white lab Tubbs, who would not allow "dad" Phil out of his sight for one second.

"We live in Moraga, but we come for the tradition, the people, the hometown feel and the music too!" said Phil.

I was impressed by the parade participants, their decorations and patriotic energy, and as numerous attendees said,

the overall hometown feel of community and spirit. It felt great to celebrate with everyone after two long years of the lingering pandemic.

I drove home that day with a smile on my face and joy in my heart, sappy and trite, but true.

Orindans, with all the extensive, behind-the-scenes work of volunteers who made this extremely involved and intricate event possible, really know how to put on a beautiful, traditional 4th of July parade and celebration.

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



CHARLEEN EARLEY  
Orinda residents of 10 years with son (L-R) **Anna** with son **Form** and husband **Isaac Miller**, sat on the sidelines directly across from the Lewiston Jazz band, to enjoy the music and 4th of July parade participants.

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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 September issue are due Aug. 8.

For advertising rates, contact Jill Gelster at 925.528.9225 (jill@aspenconsult.net), Elana O'Loskey at 925.984.1751 (elanao@mac.com), or Trish Ward at 510.685.1437 (trish@theorindanews.com). The deadline for the September issue is August 8.

SCHOOLS

# Orinda Back To School Updates for next School Year 2022-2023

By ANNABELLA BOOTH  
Contributing writer

It's a new school year for Orinda, which brings new excitement, new learning opportunities to grow and fun memories for the students.

Miramonte Principal, Ben Campopiano, is happy to see normalcy back on campus.

"It will be so great to see students without masks and to see their excitement as they start a school year in a more normal way," he said. "The start of every school year brings energy, positivity and hope. It brings me and our staff so much joy to be a part of it."

Miramonte High School is seeing its share of construction as well.

"Our Miramonte Parents' Club and ONE-Miramonte have funded 10 new hydration stations to go around campus. We're also working on beautifying our gardens and courtyards," said Campopiano.

He added, "We also had seven classrooms receive all new furniture as part of our modernization process, and we are looking at modernizing the furniture in our library, student union and staff lounge as well."

Miramonte Theater teacher, Heather Cousins, talked about what's new for the department.

"Seniors have a new opportunity to enroll in a Board and UC-approved Advanced

Drama Honors option," said Cousins. "These seniors will take on an intensive course of study in which they demonstrate leadership skills through a capstone project, which includes a portfolio as well as writing or directing and fully producing a play for a live audience."

Cousins, who has taught at Miramonte for 23 years, added, "I am thrilled that theater students now have the ability to challenge themselves further while receiving honors credit on their transcripts for their hard work."

Orinda Union School District Superintendent, Aida Glimme, is also thrilled about the new school year.

"I look forward to being ready for a year we anticipate will be similar in that we will be ready for ongoing changes in health protocols," said Glimme. "We already know what questions to ask the Health Department, how to be prepared for inevitable changes, how to best communicate with our public and how to determine the best safety measures to implement."

Glimme also talked about another priority for administration and faculty: "Anticipating increasing challenges in mental health and needs for our students." She said, "While we focus on academics, we understand what we need is additional support in mental health. We have wellness centers to be implemented at every school and we've increased counseling, to support



PHOTO COURTESY OF AIDA GLIMME

The new multipurpose room at **Sleepy Hollow Elementary**, will give students a welcome new addition to the school space.

students in every way."

OUSD schools will also sport new physical improvements including a new multipurpose room under construction at Sleepy Hollow Elementary, where every classroom will also receive new HVAC units and filters as a part of Bond Measures E and I.

School is set to start Aug. 9 for all Orinda campuses.

Orinda Academy and Holden High

School both begin Aug. 26.

While parents are busy buying new school clothes and supplies, Campopiano has this message for all: "Every school year has its challenges and its ups and downs, but I honestly believe this will be a great year for our students."

Annabella Booth can be reached at [annabellabooth@gmail.com](mailto:annabellabooth@gmail.com).

# Schools Adopt New Mission Statement and Strategic Directions

By ANDREA MADISON  
Staff Writer

The Orinda Union School District (OUSD) adopted its new Mission Statement and Strategic Directions in May, updating the district's former statement and directions from 2017.

The school district strives for "a learning community that inspires, engages and supports ALL students," as reflected in its updated Mission Statement, reviewed every six to eight years, according to a May 9 presentation at a Board of Trustees meeting.

OUSD Superintendent Aida Glimme presented the update June 15, alongside the Orinda Network for Education (ONE) and the Rotary Club of Orinda. The Zoom meeting was open to the public. ONE, formed in 2020 from the Parents' Clubs of Orinda public schools, aims to "strengthen, streamline and amplify" fundraising efforts in the city to support school staff and programs.

The new Mission Statement and Strategic [SEE OUSD page 19]



ANDREA MADISON

The **Orinda Union School District** Board of Trustees adopted their new Mission Statement and Strategic Plan this past May. The review and revision process took place during the 2021-'22 school year and saw staff and Board members taking such actions as participating in workshops and conducting surveys.



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WILDFIRE PREVENTION

# Tax Committee, City Council Discuss Wildfire and Measure R Revenue

By ANDREA MADISON  
Staff Writer

The City of Orinda and its Supplemental Sales Tax Oversight Committee (SSTOC) continue to address the urgent issue of wildfire prevention within the hilly region.

In a June 21 City Council meeting, the SSTOC subcommittee, comprised of nine citizen volunteers, presented a report which stated its objective of “quickly and effectively” utilizing the Measure R funds to protect citizens and property from wildfire.

“Our goal, based on looking at what other communities are doing and what’s working here, is focusing on a grassroots-based type of program that’s education-focused,” said SSTOC Commissioner Paula Reinman. She added that the committee’s recommendations are based on “science-based best practices,” and that driving voluntary compliance from those in Orinda is another goal of the SSTOC.

CAL FIRE, the Orinda Firewise Council and the National Fire Protection Association are among the organizations the

subcommittee consulted to create its recommendations.

Commissioner Reinman also highlighted the SSTOC’s goals for the fiscal year 2022 to ’23 and beyond, which included increasing the number of Orinda homes in Firewise neighborhoods from 28% to 85% by end of 2024.

A Firewise community, according to the organization’s website, is one that has taken appropriate measures to become more resistant to wildfire structural damage. [Further,] communities that are recognized under the Firewise USA™ Program “have followed a systematic approach to organizing and implementing a Firewise mitigation plan in their neighborhood.”

Previous uses of Measure R funds included providing a chipper and truck for year-round service for residents and budgeting for direct mailings promoting the chipper service and local fire district requirements.

A detailed evacuation analysis for the city is also currently underway, according to a summary of recent and future City of Orinda actions.

“Wildfire protection and prevention is the highest priority for our city, and keeping our citizens up-to-date is very important,” Orinda Mayor Dennis Fay expressed via email on July 8.

Expanded parking restrictions in the Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones in the city, many of which cover the areas northwest of Highway 24, is another wildfire-related action the city council approved in early June. These restrictions apply to all evacuation routes within these fire zones on Red Flag Days.

The City Council also acted on other suggestions from the SSTOC during the



ANDREA MADISON

In a late June meeting, members of the Orinda City Council and the City’s Supplemental Sales Tax Oversight Commission (SSTOC) discussed both recent and future progress in using Measure R funds to further wildfire prevention in the area.

June 21 meeting. Those included the addition of a limited-term Outreach & Education staff position focusing on fire prevention and emergency preparedness in the FY 2022- ’23 budget and a gridded program for the continuing chipper service, which would dedicate the service to certain parts of the city on scheduled days.

Additional developments were addressed at June and July two-by-two committee meetings, formed to ensure Moraga-Orinda Fire District (MOFD) and the city will move on parallel tracks.

Areas of mutual interest concerned forming a grant/incentive program that would encourage homeowners to prepare for wildfires and exploring the possibility of a “boots on the ground” homeowner

compliance effort through the MOFD’s fire fuels inspection program. A recent action sought to align evacuation routes within both Moraga and Orinda.

The July two-by-two committee meeting between MOFD and the City was to provide an opportunity for the discussion of future actions and possible additional recommendations for the use of the add-on tax revenue to advance wildfire protection, a cause that “early use of Measure R funds is heavily weighted to,” according to the city. The meeting will involve the discussion of possible incentives and a reviewing of fire modeling.

Other uses for the voter-approved sales tax, as listed on the City of Orinda SSTOC page, include “disaster planning and emergency response, critical public storm

[SEE MEASURE R page 9]



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STUDENTS

# Lamorinda Idol Returns to the Orinda Theatre for the 2022 Competition

By SALLY HOGARTY  
Executive Editor

The Orinda Theatre will be filled with excited young performers and proud parents on Aug. 14 as Lamorinda Idol returns for another year.

COVID forced the competition online in 2020 and outside at the Orinda Community Center Park in 2021, but, this year it's back at the grand Orinda Theatre where a total of 39 soloists and 13 groups will vie for best in their categories.

A program of the Lamorinda Arts Council, Lamorinda Idol is a singing competition modeled after American Idol.



COURTESY OF LAMORINDA IDOL

Miranda Klein was a soloist in last year's competition and this year, she is competing with Tessa Shaffer as the group "Harmonious!"

This year approximately 120 young people auditioned with judges choosing the finalists in early spring. The talented youngsters have since been performing throughout Lamorinda including the Orinda Association's 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade and at the City of Orinda's Concerts in the Park July 14.

"The culmination is the Finals, on August 14 this year, when singers perform in the Orinda Theatre, and highly qualified judges comment on their performances," said the Arts Council's Steve Harwood. "Then, winners in eight categories will be selected, based on voting of the judges and the audience. Winners will receive cash prizes. The quality of the singing is remarkable in all categories."

Broken up into age groups and solo or group events, the day will begin at 11 a.m. with solo competition in K - 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> grades, followed at 1 p.m. by Groups in K - 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> grades and 9<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> grades. The afternoon competition continues at 3:15 p.m. with soloists in 6<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> grades followed by soloists in grades 9<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> at 5 p.m. Awards for all categories begin at 7 p.m. Admission is free.

According to Harwood, the day is much more than a competition.

"It is an opportunity for young people to pursue their passion for singing. They are coached through workshops and outdoor performances in Lafayette, Orinda, and Moraga. As the young people pursue their passion, they bring joy to the community."

For more information on Lamorinda Idol, go to [www.lamorindaarts.org](http://www.lamorindaarts.org).

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



CHARIS WOO

Lamorinda Idol finalists Alec Home (L), a Campolindo senior, and Juneaux Maeder, a recent Campolindo graduate, wowed attendees at this year's 4th of July parade.



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## ◆ MEASURE R from page 8

drainage infrastructure and long-term road repair and maintenance."

In an April 6 document outlining the SSTOC's recommendations, the committee provides an overview of the situation at hand: "Wildfire is a clear and present danger for our community. We must act effectively and with a sense of urgency.

"The City of Orinda must step forward with strategic, focused programming that will lead residents toward the necessary culture change required to become wildfire-

adapted and to support the community groups and individuals who are already doing the work."

Fay commented on the SSTOC's accomplishments to date: "The patient and thoughtful work of our Measure R oversight commission is beginning to bear fruit, and I expect more to come through. Our volunteers on this commission have put in many hours in service of our city. They are to be commended."

Andrea Madison can be reached at [drea.madison.05@gmail.com](mailto:drea.madison.05@gmail.com).

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# LAMORINDA Idol

## Finals

Sunday, August 14, 2022  
Orinda Theatre

<p><b>K-2 SOLOS</b> Ethan Morris William Tanner</p> <p><b>3-5 SOLOS</b> Saiona Braman-Pleasants Ariella DeStefano Sophia Nicola Fedalizo Colette Goodman Brielle Hammond Cara Impallomeni Quinn Pennington Chloe Sabo-Nichols Tessa Shaffer Ziya Stevenson Lilith Traxler Max Waters Penny White</p> <p><b>6-8 SOLOS</b> Arianna Bustamante Morgan Butler Mia Cortesio Addison Davis Meher Gupta Palig Horoupian Shelley Khan Abigail Kim Alexis Lee Rena Liu Margaret Meckes Aubrey Peterson</p> <p><b>9-12 SOLOS</b> Gabrielle Carreon Ashley Dong Brian Doolittle Ava Jacuzzi Clea Lee Mina Lim Juneaux Maeder Audrey Parco Kaitlyn Roach Amanda Turtle Ruby Vanhouten Aaron Zemelman</p>	<p><b>K-5 GROUPS</b> BIGGYSMALLS Vivian Welch Colette Goodman</p> <p><b>DA BESTIES</b> Brooke Bernstein Anna Tanner</p> <p><b>HARMONIOUS!</b> Miranda Klein Tessa Shaffer</p> <p><b>6-8 GROUPS</b> LOUD &amp; PROUD Alexis Lee Palig Horoupian</p> <p><b>MESS</b> Selma Slezak Maya Elkind</p> <p><b>TREBLE &amp; BASS</b> Isabelle Porcella Aubrey Peterson</p> <p><b>9-12 GROUPS</b> 4 O'Clock Mina Lim Jaden Maspasella Sava Peterson Sadie Poole</p> <p><b>511</b> Henry Vanhouten Ava Jacuzzi Aiden Connolly Ruby Vanhouten Lauren Stone</p> <p><b>AARON &amp; AYA</b> Aaron Zemelman Aya Banoja</p> <p><b>LIA &amp; MAILE</b> Liana Chinn Maile Chinn</p> <p><b>RAINBOW HARMONY</b> Amelia Chen Kaitlyn Roach</p> <p><b>RAT PACK VOL. 2</b> Alec Home Juneaux Maeder</p> <p><b>THIRD TIMES A CHARM</b> Olivia Foster Clea Lee Sofia Rose Alexandra Van De Poel</p>	<p><b>SCHEDULE FOR THE DAY</b></p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>11:00 - 12:30PM</td> <td>GRADES K-2 AND 3-5 SOLOISTS</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1:00 - 2:30PM</td> <td>GRADES K-5, 6-8 AND 9-12 GROUPS</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3:15 - 4:30PM</td> <td>GRADES 6-8 SOLOISTS</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5:00 - 6:15PM</td> <td>GRADES 9-12 SOLOISTS</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7:00 - 7:30PM</td> <td>ANNOUNCEMENT OF WINNERS</td> </tr> </table> <p><b>ADMISSION IS FREE!</b> Donations Welcome</p>	11:00 - 12:30PM	GRADES K-2 AND 3-5 SOLOISTS	1:00 - 2:30PM	GRADES K-5, 6-8 AND 9-12 GROUPS	3:15 - 4:30PM	GRADES 6-8 SOLOISTS	5:00 - 6:15PM	GRADES 9-12 SOLOISTS	7:00 - 7:30PM	ANNOUNCEMENT OF WINNERS
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5:00 - 6:15PM	GRADES 9-12 SOLOISTS											
7:00 - 7:30PM	ANNOUNCEMENT OF WINNERS											

4TH OF JULY



JEFF HEYMAN

The Blue Devils C Corp returned to this year's parade. The Blue Devils Tall Flags group won for Best Non-Musical Group.

### 2022 Parade Winners!

Most Patriotic Spirit	Mechanics Bank
Best Youth Musical Group	Lamorinda Idol Singers
Best Musical Group	All Volunteer Marching Band
Best Non-Musical Performance	Blue Devils Tall Flags
Most Entertaining	MJ's Brass Boppers
Best "Orinda" group	Orinda Library
Largest Club, Group or Team	Meadow Swim Club
Best Military	Gary Gravelyn Jeep
Best Senior Group	Spirit of '29
Best Dance	Stilt Walkers
Most Energetic	Peter Pan Foundation
Most Original	Smart Home AAA
Most Creative	Joy in Motion
Best Animal	Lamorinda 4H
Best Auto	Classic Car Show Vehicles
Best Group for a Cause	Orinda Nature Area



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CHARIS WOO

Mechanics Bank won Most Patriotic Spirit with its decorations and bubble machine. Orinda Vice President/Bank Manager Ally Fattore also passed jars of bubbles to the audience.



CHARIS WOO

The Honor Guard, consisting of veterans from Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 8063 and scouts from Lafayette Troop 284, signaled the start of the parade.

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4TH OF JULY

# Attendees and Participates Enjoy Orinda's 36th Annual Parade

By **BOBBY DODSON**  
Staff Writer

Orinda's 36th annual 4th of July parade lived up to the slogan, "America's Best Hometown Parade." A multitude of Lamorinda organizations marched along the route on Independence Day.

Perennial parade attendees Pat and Pete Williams said they come because they like a patriotic parade. Henry Fuldner said he was glad the parade could happen this year, and it was a first for his three-year-old son, Toby.

Gary Peare, who directed the Orinda Marching Band, said, "It's an honor to play in the parade, as it reflects on the freedoms of which this holiday reminds us."

Kristen Morcos opined that it was great to see all the people out enjoying the parade.

"Seems like there is great energy and enthusiasm for this event," she said. "This was evident among the children as they

raced for the candy being thrown out."

Former City Council member, Bobbie Landers, shared memories of the parade's inception: "It was 1983-1984, in the throes of the drive for incorporation. Our PR team felt we needed to bring all the residents together. My hometown of Glen Ellyn, Illinois, was red, white and blue from one end to the other on 4th of July."

She continued, "This seemed like a perfect fit for Orinda – a parade where anyone can march. To start off the day, John Fazel organized the first fun run. It was a 5K and a 10K run, and everyone who passed the finish line got a ribbon. After the parade, every non-profit got a table in the park. The community responded positively, as evidenced by the fact we continue to have the parade."

Long time participant, Steve Harwood, enjoyed announcing from his prime spot in front of the Community Center.

"Along with my pals Bill Cosden and Scott Butler, I've been announcing the parade for about 30 years," said Har-



KEN HOGARTY

The Orinda Association honored Orinda teachers and students in this year's parade. Representing teachers and students as Grand Marshals were: (standing) student **Micah Paik** and Sleepy Hollow teacher **Vicki Hilty**; (L-R in truck) students **Julia Moore, Austin Cheek, Evie Kalmar** and **Olivia Cheek**.

wood. "I see our 4th of July festivities as an opportunity to celebrate enthusiastically the freedoms we enjoy and the many individuals and organizations that contribute to make Orinda a wonderful place to live."

Announcer Scott Butler added, "It's been a pleasure working with Steve and Bill on the parade since 2016. A great event, under superb leadership, and truly the best hometown parade in America."

Bill Cosden, an announcer for decades as well, felt grateful to lend his voice once again.

"I feel very fortunate to have enjoyed a 25-year joyful ride with my best pal, Steve Harwood, providing PA announcing and music, along with his state-of-the-art sound and lighting equipment," said Cosden. "The highlight is being able to work with a wonderful group of creative and talented people. That, combined with seeing the delight the parade brings entrants and Lamorinda residents and visitors, is as good as it gets; priceless, actually."

*Bobbie Dodson can be reached at [bobbiedodson109@gmail.com](mailto:bobbiedodson109@gmail.com).*



JEFF HEYMAN

The Lamorinda All Volunteer Marching Band took Best Musical Group in this year's parade.



KEN HOGARTY

Spirit of '29 won the award for Best Senior Group.

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ORINDA BEAUTIFICATION / CAR TIME

# Lassie Colebourn Beautifies Orinda one Utility Box at a Time

BY BOBBIE DODSON  
Staff Writer

It's remarkable what a pallet of paint colors can do in the hands of an artist. Lassie Colebourn showed this to be true when she painted the utility box in front of the Orinda Community Center.

Bright colored tulips and a red moth adorn one side with iris and Nandina, which she says she added because they are planted on both sides of the box. She painted a yellow and orange field of wildflowers on the other side with a wide open tulip on the top.

"I was happy to do this project because I like the idea of public art to beautify the city," said Colebourn. "I also enjoyed talking with people as they walked by while I

was painting."

Maggie Boscoe, a member of the Lamorinda Art Council and Curator of the Art Gallery at the Orinda library came up with the painted utility boxes idea.

"I got the idea of painting the utility boxes in Orinda when I was driving through Walnut Creek and Lafayette and saw their painted boxes. So, I started the project to paint the boxes, which belong to the City," said Boscoe.

"The City required me to put some paintings on private property before I could get permission to paint boxes belonging to them. In the Theatre District, as proof of concept, there are paintings at CVS, Mash gas station and a big belly trash and recycling can by the mailbox."

Boscoe added, "After waiting for an agreement from the City, we started painting boxes and putting paintings on the back and side of big belly cans on the Village side. I have artists lined up to paint more utility boxes and big belly cans. I hope this project will beautify Orinda with art. I therefore call it 'Artify Orinda.'"

She said all paintings are original art by local artists and people can donate to the project at [artify@lamorindaarts.org](mailto:artify@lamorindaarts.org). Those who donate \$500 will have their names on a plaque attached to the art, but donations in any amount are also accepted.

*Bobbie Dodson can be reached at [bobbiedodson109@gmail.com](mailto:bobbiedodson109@gmail.com).*



SALLY HOGARTY

People walking along Orinda Way have to be aware of the "fox" who now lives on the utility box by Rite Aid thanks to artist **Tim Hancock** and the Artify Orinda program.



PHOTO BY MAGGIE BOSCOE

Lassie Colebourn beautified the utility box in front of the Community Center with her bright colored flowers.

## CAR TIME

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Sure, it would be great to simply say, we want to fix your car, but the reality is that may not be in your best interest.

In most cases, the down payment on a new car would cover the costs of the repairs to your existing car. If, however, you add the "at time of sale" and yearly registration costs, as well as the monthly payments, you probably not only could have repaired your

existing car, but also painted it as well.

Still, there are times when it doesn't make sense to spend money fixing your car. Those cases include when it hasn't been maintained well or if there is a major component failure, like to an engine or transmission.

This is the reason we ask so many questions in helping you make the right decision. We want to earn your trust and hopefully help you further in the future.

Ultimately, look for a repair facility that makes you feel safe and secure in your decision to use it. Do not judge solely on price, because you are not buying the same thing from facility to facility.

In addition, for those who may think "auto-repair" is easy, think about my oft-repeated maxim: There is more computing power in newer vehicles nowadays than there was in the Saturn rocket that sent a man to the moon!

*Ray Kunz can be reached at [service@orindamotors.com](mailto:service@orindamotors.com).*

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ORINDA ART SCENE

Orinda Art Scene

AUGUST IN THE ART GALLERIES AT THE ORINDA LIBRARY AND WILDER

ELANA O'LOSKEY



Art Gallery at the Orinda Library: Ceramic Vessels to Inspire, Woodturnings, Fabric Art, Photographs and Paintings

The Lamorinda Arts Council presents ceramics by Jeannine Calcagno, Rick Nelson's wood turnings, the fabric art of Tina Nelson, photographs by Wendy Pym and paintings and drawings by Nancy Vachani in the Art Gallery at the Orinda Library during August. Learn more about these talented artists Saturday, Aug. 6 from 3 – 5 p.m., when light refreshments will be served in the Gallery.

Aristotle said, "The aim of art is to represent not the outward appearance of things, but their inward experience." The artists in this month's exhibit are so skilled that once you gaze at their work for a few minutes outward appearances might evoke

an inward experience.

For example, Calcagno's "Blue Hydrangea" black stoneware vessel, while diminutive in size (9.5" x 6.5"), calls to mind memories of a shady pathway lined with large globes of lush blue hydrangeas.

Calcagno, who works out of her Santa Cruz studio, will show a dozen ceramic pieces from her own collection as well as 25-30 other pieces.

"I hold to the philosophy of William Morris: 'Have nothing in your house that you do not know to be useful or believe to be beautiful,'" she said.

For 50 years she has made pottery that people use in their homes. Her style pairs a glossy décor with the raw texture of stoneware clay for both decorative and functional pieces.



COURTESY OF RICK NELSON

Rick Nelson, President of the Oakland Art Association, displays his 10" x 4" woodturning *Swirl Bowl*, made of maple, purpleheart and walnut. "The challenge of creating such a basic form as a bowl with new artistic value keeps me going," said Nelson.

"I keep things fresh by using new materials and firing techniques," she said.

View her YouTube video about colored clay slip decoration at <https://youtu.be/MvKDvI9q4kg> or visit [www.calcagnopottery.com](http://www.calcagnopottery.com) for more about her work.

Rick and Tina Nelson, residing in Walnut Creek, are longtime members of the Oakland Art Association (OAA). Rick volunteers as OAA President and will display 10 woodturning pieces.

Simple woodturnings can be challenging. The intent is that when done they will blow away the most complex, over-thought designs. Rick's designs epitomize this premise. His "Swirl Bowl," a 10" x 14" turned wood bowl made of maple, purpleheart and walnut, exemplifies this idea.

"The greatest challenge is always to 'tell a story' with the finished piece," he said.

See more of his woodturnings at [www.oaklandart.org/](http://www.oaklandart.org/).

Tina Nelson is captivated by the texture and creative possibilities demonstrated by

other fabric artists. She continually collects cellphone images, then spends hours mulling them over for new ways to use wool and linen to depict images and communicate the emotion of the moment.

"Wool stitching on linen incorporates all the fundamentals of other fine art media while offering an additional set of 'tools' to help communicate emotion and feeling to the viewer," she said. "Examples of these tools are textures and mixture of colors you would find in heavy oil paintings, but because the are stitched with heavy wool, the element of touch is added. Sometimes I stitch on other materials, such as mosses and ribbons, which also provide color and texture," said Nelson.


The artist related that when the project she is working on starts to lose excitement for her, she forces herself into a new genre such as portraits, landscapes, abstracts, etc. In "Benicia Train Depot," an 18" x 26" work of wool stitched on linen, the storybook nature of the scene gets accentuated by the

[SEE GALLERY page 16]



COURTESY OF NANCY VACHANI


This *Spirit of the Ukraine* painting by Orinda artist Nancy Vachani is one of a pair. Vachani will donate the proceeds from the sale of these paintings in exchange for a donation to a non-profit organization dedicated to helping the humanitarian needs of the Ukrainian people.




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CLUB MEETINGS / EVERYDAY ORINDA

## Club Meetings in August

Some clubs are meeting in person, while others still offer Zoom meetings. Use contact for more information.

**American Association of University Women-Orinda-Moraga-Lafayette Branch (AAUW-OML)** general meeting Aug. 16 at 9:30 a.m., Orinda Community Church, 10 Irwin Way. <https://oml-ca.aauw.net>.

**Community Gentle Yoga**, via Zoom, Mondays and Thursdays 9-10 a.m. Contact Gaby Mozee at [gcmoozee@gmail.com](mailto:gcmoozee@gmail.com).

**Friends of the Joaquin Moraga Adobe**. Third Monday, 7:30 p.m. Contact Kent Long for Zoom link at [kentlong@moragaadobe.org](mailto:kentlong@moragaadobe.org). [www.moragaadobe.org](http://www.moragaadobe.org).

**Friends of the Orinda Creeks**. Fourth Wednesday. 3 p.m., 925.408.1840. [www.orindacreeks.org](http://www.orindacreeks.org).

**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 [gcmoozee@gmail.com](mailto:gcmoozee@gmail.com).

**Lamorinda Republican Women Federated**. Third Thursday. For more information, visit [www.lamorindarepublicanwomenfederated.org](http://www.lamorindarepublicanwomenfederated.org).

**Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary**. Weekly meetings conducted in hybrid format – in person & Zoom, are recorded. General public can access at no charge. 7 – 8:15 a.m. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82609498205>. Meetings held at Veterans Memorial Center, 3780 Mount

Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. Visit: [www.lamorindasunrise.com](http://www.lamorindasunrise.com) or [lamorindasunrise@gmail.com](mailto:lamorindasunrise@gmail.com). Meetings: Aug. 5 – Army Major Mike Lyons, West Point graduate and military analyst for several national news networks; Aug. 12 – Kayla McKeon, first registered lobbyist on Capitol Hill with Down Syndrome. Has been featured on CBS and ESPN; Aug. 19 – Diana Becton, recently re-elected to office as district attorney for Contra Costa County; Aug. 26 – Rich Shearer (Club member) talks about “My Dad and the Bomb.” His father, the late Jack Shearer, worked at Lawrence Livermore National Lab testing nuclear weapons. For more info. [www.lamorindasunrise.org](http://www.lamorindasunrise.org). Email: [lamorindasunrise@gmail.com](mailto:lamorindasunrise@gmail.com).

**Montelindo Garden Club**, membership open to all. For additional information, visit the website at [montelindogarden.com](http://montelindogarden.com).

**The Orinda Association**. First Monday 7 p.m., Zoom meeting. 925.254.0800 or [www.orindaassociation.org](http://www.orindaassociation.org).

**Orinda Chamber of Commerce** Aug. 17 Board meeting. Contact Roy Hodgkinson for zoom link at [president@orindachamber.org](mailto:president@orindachamber.org). **Orinda Garden Club**, PO Box 34, Orinda, [www.orindagc.org](http://www.orindagc.org), 925.257.0668.

**Orinda Hiking Club**. Every weekend and first Wednesday, Ian at 925.254.1465 or [www.orindahiking.org](http://www.orindahiking.org).

**Orinda Historical Society**. Call 925.254.1353 email [information@orindahistory.org](mailto:information@orindahistory.org), <http://orindahistory.org> for times and location of meetings and appointments.

[SEE CLUBS page 15]

## Everyday Orinda

FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT: ALL THE DRAMA, CONFLICT AND INTRIGUE YOU’LL NEED

MIMI BOMMARITO



Time to discuss a well-kept secret. Who knew that Orinda claims a genuine Frank Lloyd Wright [FLW] masterpiece, one of only a handful on the West Coast? By making this common knowledge, I’m relinquishing some of my best cocktail party fodder.

Mid-century architecture fans will be delighted to learn that just off Glorietta Blvd. sits a three-bedroom, Usonian-style residential gem, tucked away on an unassuming little cul de sac called Great Oaks Trail.

But before you jump in the car and race over, this property is gated and tours are rare, although one can enjoy a modest glimpse from the driveway.

The history of this dwelling is as full of drama, conflict and intrigue as the blustery architectural genius himself. The home was eventually built around 1948 for Orindans Maynard and Katherine Buehler (no relation to Ferris, wink.) I say “eventually,” because FLW reportedly ignored Katherine Buehler’s business inquiries for so long, she was about to give up on him. After surprising her with an unapologetically delayed return phone call, and after lengthy negotiations, FLW finally consented to design and build the Buehler’s home, but only if they would agree to purchase all surrounding land in order to fulfill his vision.

Thus, their original one-acre lot became 3.5 acres.

Read this and weep: the couple paid \$1,850 for the first acre lot; \$5,000 for the second and \$7,500 for the third. The expansive grounds, which include a Japanese tea garden, koi pond, waterfalls, footbridges and exquisite landscaping, were designed by none other than Henry Matsutani, of San Francisco’s Golden Gate Park fame. I know, right?

Listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2006, the Buehler House is noted for its “inclined shed” living room ceiling tilted at a gorgeous dramatic angle, gold leaf ceilings in the dining room, FLW-designed furniture and many more of the world-renowned architect’s signature features too numerous to list.

FLW and Katherine Buehler reportedly “buted heads” over a few design issues, namely the small size of the kitchen, but the architect refused to compromise. Buehler later admitted Wright made excellent use

of the space.

As long as the Buehler’s owned the home, drama was non-existent.

Charitable and civic-minded, the couple regularly opened their home to the public for tours and fundraisers. “Trouble in O-town” arose after their passing when their estate was put up for sale.

Another shocker: this original Frank Lloyd Wright was first listed in 2011 at \$5 million, but did not sell until 2013, when Gerald Shmavonian, a graduate of UC Berkeley and resident of Piedmont, purchased it for the reduced price of 3.5 million. Oh, to jump in that time machine!

To the dismay of the neighbors, Shmavonian repurposed the property as a wedding venue, with no reasonable cap on the number of guests permitted.

The estate made *Vogue* magazine’s 2016 short list of world’s best wedding venues, fueling the fire as the space naturally became wildly popular. Neighbors were forced to deal with constant noise issues and traffic congestion, eventually appealing to the City of Orinda for help.

The city attempted to impose numerous fines on Shmavonian for continually violating zoning and noise ordinances, but to no avail.

Then – COVID-19 to the rescue.

We don’t hear that phrase often, as there are very few pluses to a world locked-down – with the minor exception of shutting down the Buehler Estate as a wedding venue. The fact that the Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation also heftily sued Shmavonian in 2019 for domain name violations likely helped.

What is the future of the little house that Famous Frank built?

If only a vivacious, friendly, empty-nesting soul (hey, like me!) could own the house and continue the Buehler’s generous traditions, opening the grounds to the public for free educational tours and genteel fundraisers, both of which the neighbors had no quarrel with.

For now, only the limited view from the driveway is free, but you can snag a selfie with the nearby bust of FLW by the entrance.

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

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CALENDAR

On the Calendar in August

**The International Film Showcase** presents the French film, *Lost Illusions*, the winner of seven 2022 Cesars (France's Oscar), including Best Picture, after having been nominated for 15 Cesars. The film is based on a Balzac novel of the same name. It is the story of the rise and fall of a young man in Paris who hopes to become a journalist. Orinda Theatre date TBA. Go to: [www.orindaMovies.com](http://www.orindaMovies.com) for dates and showtimes.

1 **Orinda Library** is open to the public. Storytimes are on Wednesday mornings at 10:30. Open hours are Mon. through Thu., 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Fri. and Sat., 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. 6 Orinda Way, Call 925.254.2184 for more information or visit <http://ccclib.org>.

4 **Orinda Books Pat's Book Club** will read and discuss *The Personal Librarian* by Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray. Email [info@orindabooks](mailto:info@orindabooks) for reservations.

**Taste of the World Market** food trucks Orinda Community Center parking lot from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Also, Aug. 11, 18, and 25.

**Concerts-In-the-Park**, with West Grand Blvd, 6 - 8 p.m. Orinda Community Center Park.

5 **Orinda Starlight Village Players** present Frank L. Baum's *Marvelous Land of Oz* adapted by Malcom Cowler into a musi-



The Orinda Starlight Village Players perform L. Frank Baum's *Marvelous Land of Oz* through Aug. 13. (L-R) **Miriam Michels** (Jack Pumpkinhead), **Vanessa Melendrez** (Tip), **Anonymous** (The Scarecrow), **Todd Wolf** (Tin Man), **John Chapin** (Woggle-Bug) and **Dan Phillips** (Saw-Horse).

DAVID DIERKS

cal extravaganza, with lyrics by Cowler, music by Rice Majors and live musical accompaniment by Deborah Dahl Shanks. Fridays and Saturdays through Aug. 13, 8:30 p.m. Also, Aug. 7 at 4 p.m. and Aug. 11 at 8 p.m. Orinda Community Center Park Amphitheater. [www.orsvp.org](http://www.orsvp.org), [info@orsvp.org](mailto:info@orsvp.org) or 925.528.9225 for more information.

6 **Orinda Farmers' Market**, 9 a.m. Orinda Way in front of Rite Aid and the Community Park. [www.cccfm.org](http://www.cccfm.org) or market hotline at 925.431.8361. Also Aug. 13, 20 and 27. See article p. 17.

**Art Gallery at the Orinda Library** - Ceramic Vessels to Inspire, Woodturnings, Fabric Art, Photographs and Paintings - The Lamorinda Arts Council presents ceramics by Jeannine Calcagno, Rick Nelson's wood turnings, the fabric art of Tina Nelson, photographs by Wendy Pyman and paintings and drawings by Nancy Vachani in the Art Gallery at the Orinda Library during August. Artists reception 3 to 5 p.m. See article p. 13.

**Art Gallery at Wilder** - Grant Glosop's woodwork designs. View his virtual artwork exhibit through Sept. 9 at

<https://bit.ly/3Pma3gq> for details. See article p. 13.

14 **Lamorinda Idol Finals** - 11 a.m. and run until the awards ceremony at 7 p.m. This seven-level competition for young singers held at the Orinda Theatre, 2 Theatre Square. Visit [www.lamorindaarts.org/idol-2/](http://www.lamorindaarts.org/idol-2/) or email [idol@lamorindaarts.org](mailto:idol@lamorindaarts.org) for more information. See article p. 9.

19 **Movies-In-the-Park**, *Jungle Cruise* begins at dusk. Orinda Community Center Park.

25 **Concerts-In-the-Park**, with Last One Picked, 6 - 8 p.m. Orinda Community Center Park.

26 **Movies-In-the-Park**, *Bolt* begins at dusk. Orinda Community Center Park.

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

◆ CLUBS from page 14

**Orinda Junior Women's Club.** First Tuesday, 7 p.m., [www.orindajuniors.org](http://www.orindajuniors.org). Contact Erika Rosenberg at 415.867.3065.

**Orinda Masonic Lodge #122 F&AM.** 9 Altarinda Road, Orinda Masonic Center. 925.254.5211. <https://orindalodge.org>.

**Orinda Rotary.** Wednesdays at 12:15 p.m. at the Founders' Auditorium, 28 Orinda Way, Guests are welcome to join Rotarians. Speakers are: Aug. 3, - Micki Cronin, Senior Management Analyst, City of Orinda; Aug. 10 - Kay Norman, Orinda Historical Society; Aug. 17 - Scott Christie, Senior Civil Engineer/Project Manager, City of Orinda; Aug. 24 - Dave Mason, East Bay Regional Parks, City of Orinda; Aug. 31 - Evening meeting 6 to 7:30 p.m., Bill Waterman, Attorney at Law & Rotarian, Car Show in Orinda. For more information, contact Rodney Lal, president, email: [RodneyLal@yahoo.com](mailto:RodneyLal@yahoo.com) or call 925-366-8077

**Orinda Satellite Rotary Club.** Second Wednesday. 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. For more information, 925.254.8260.

**Orinda Teen Advisory Council** for information, email Recreation Coordinator Matt Delmartini at [mdelmartini@cityoforinda.org](mailto:mdelmartini@cityoforinda.org).

**Orinda Woman's Club.** Second Tuesday, 9:30 a.m. Garden Room of Orinda Library. Email Jean Barnhart [jean.barnhart@gmail.com](mailto:jean.barnhart@gmail.com) to confirm location.

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

**Sons in Retirement (SIR)** Lamorinda Branch 174, the 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](http://www.branch174.sirinc2.org).

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



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CONTINUATION / CLASSIFIEDS

◆ GALLERIES from page 13

fabric textures. View a YouTube video of her work at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=uIuevq4KEoo](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uIuevq4KEoo) or visit [www.oaklandart579.org/](http://www.oaklandart579.org/).

Pyman lives in San Francisco but worked in Berkeley for 22 years and knows the East Bay well. For her, photography is a means of self-expression, but she also seeks to convey a sense of place for the viewer.

She wants to draw people into the scene and experience awe and oneness with nature that speaks to her.

"It is not just about light, composition or location, but finding harmony and balance among color, lines, textures and rhythmic patterns," she said.

"Transition," her 20" x 30" photograph on metal, memorializes subtleties of light, all too ephemeral in the moment.

Larry Ulrich, David Muench, Ansel Adams and Eliot Porter, as well as other well-known landscape photographers, have particularly influenced her work. She challenges herself to intercept the light and capture a scene in all its glory.

Her work can be found at the Moraga Art Gallery, ArtSpan, Lamorinda Arts Alliance and the Oakland Art Association. Visit [www.wendapyman.com/](http://www.wendapyman.com/) for more information and follow her on Instagram @wendapymanphotography.

Vachani, of Orinda, is showing about 20 works, mostly oil paintings but also some drawings.

"My theme, 'On Being Human - a Global Milieu,' is basically about our human condition with all its beauty as well as troubling problems," said Vachani.

"Futbolista for Social Justice," Vachani's

24" x 18" oil painting, was featured in the recent Alice Neel exhibit at the de Young Museum in San Francisco with the following caption: "This young Hispanic woman soccer player in the painting has been active in the Bay Area promoting social justice issues for minorities. She organized an exhibition at SOMArts Cultural Center that highlighted the importance of using sports as a means of bridging gaps in communities of color and the injustices suffered by those communities. The chalkboard in this painting was installed at the exhibition, so those attending could write what sports mean to them. Dania, the passionate Futbolista in the painting was an inspiring figure to paint."

Visit the de Young's online site to learn more about the exhibit at <https://bit.ly/3Puopes>. To learn more about Vachani's work, go to [www.instagram.com/vachaniart/](http://www.instagram.com/vachaniart/).

Learn more about the Lamorinda Arts Council at [www.lamorindaarts.org](http://www.lamorindaarts.org). This exhibit runs Aug. 1 through 31 in the Art Gallery at the Orinda Library at 26 Orinda Way. Hours are Mon. - Thur., 10 a.m. - 8 p.m., Fri. - Sat., 10 a.m. - 6 p.m., closed Sun. Call 925.254.2184 for more information about the Library or visit [www.ccclib.org/](http://www.ccclib.org/). Email the curators with questions at [gallery@lamorindaarts.org](mailto:gallery@lamorindaarts.org) or call the Lamorinda Arts Council at 925.359.9940.

**Art Gallery at Wilder Reclaimed Wood Transformed with Patina and Imagination**

The Lamorinda Arts Council (LAC) presents the woodwork designs of featured

artist Grant Glossop at its virtual Art Gallery at Wilder from Aug. 6 through Sept. 9. Access Glossop's artwork online at [www.lamorindaarts.org/online-galleries/](http://www.lamorindaarts.org/online-galleries/).

Glossop, hailing from Yorkshire in the U.K., now lives in Novato. He originally trained as a jeweler in the U.K. where he developed his love of working with metals. After finishing art school, he became interested in creating larger pieces. This led him to incorporate wood into his designs.

For many years, he designed and created work for himself, but during the pandemic that changed. Glossop launched a website to expand his reach.

"Creating during quarantine helped me find some kind of balance during a challenging time," he said.

His goal is to make something that someone else sees as beautiful. His 12" x 4" x 4" *Loxley Floating Box*, made of treated wood and paint, seems to hover above its resting place, catching the eye and imagination. Learn more about Glossop's work at [www.grantglossop.com](http://www.grantglossop.com).

The Wilder Art and Garden Center is located at 20 Orinda Fields Lane, Orinda. The exhibit, virtual-only due to COVID-19 restrictions, runs Aug. 8 through Sept. 9. Viewings by appointment with Curator Ani Breslin can be arranged by contacting



COURTESY GRANT GLOSSOP

Grant Glossop's wood designs are inspired by subjects in Yorkshire, UK. All pieces are one-of-a-kind and handcrafted in California.

her at [anistonbreslin@berkeley.edu](mailto:anistonbreslin@berkeley.edu). For more information, call the Lamorinda Arts Council at 925.359.9940.

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

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SEASONED SHOPPER



BARBARA KOBSAR



The second crop of honey-sweet figs is ready! Fig trees can produce two crops per year depending on variety. Branches bearing the spring/summer crop develop on the previous year's new wood, and the August/September crop is from summer's growth.

Figs are enjoyed as a fruit, but are actually fleshy flowers with their blossoms on the inside – the reason we do not see blossoms on their branches. Hundreds of tiny flowers produce the crunchy, little edible seeds to create the figs' unique texture.

Figs are nutritionally rich, cholesterol free and relatively low in calories and fat. Best of all is they taste great and come with their own natural sweetness. California is proud to produce virtually 100% of the nation's dried figs and 98% of the fresh figs.



BARBARA KOBSAR

Black Mission fig is just one variety of delicious figs you can find at the Farmers' Market.

Figs vary only in skin color, from purple-black to white and shapes from round to oval. Most popular of the fresh figs in our markets are the Black Mission, Brown Turkey, Calimyrna and Kadota.

Tree ripening is a must for figs. The sweetest figs must ripen on the tree and get harvested before the squirrels get them! They do not continue to ripen after picking.

How do you tell if figs are ripe? The nar-

row necks soften and the figs droop slightly, signaling they are ready to be hand-picked. If you harvest your own, consider using gloves and wearing long sleeves – fig latex is exposed when the stem is cut and can cause skin irritation.

Fresh figs last three to four days in the refrigerator and may be frozen for up to six months. Frozen figs lose their shape, but may be pureed and used in baked goods, preserves, with cheese, in yogurt and on pizza.

Figs are a natural humectant, meaning they help retain freshness and moisture in baked goods.

Be creative and try this fresh fig and prosciutto sandwich. Cut a baguette in half lengthwise and remove some of the bread from the center of each half. Drizzle olive oil and coarsely chopped fresh basil leaves over both bread halves. Arrange 4 – 6 ounces thinly sliced prosciutto and 8 ounces blue cheese or brie (at room temperature) over the bottom half of the bread, then top the cheese with thin slices of ripe figs (about 3 figs). Squeeze a little lemon juice over the top and finish with freshly grated black pepper. Cover with the top half of the bread and wrap in aluminum foil (leave the seam on the top of the foil open slightly).

Bake at 350 degrees until the cheese is melted and the sandwich is heated through, about 15 minutes. Cut into 8 equal pieces. Serves 4.

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](http://www.cccfm.org), facebook.com/OrindaFarmersMarket and Instagram at OrindaFarmersMarket or call the market hotline at 925.322.6228.

National Farmers' Market Week is August 7 - 13. Visit the growers and vendors and shop for some of the best and freshest, in-season produce. Orinda is one of more than 8,000 Farmers' Markets nationwide and one of over 700 in California.

Barbara Kobsar sells her Cottage Kitchen jams and jellies at the Jam Stand at the Saturday Orinda market and the Sunday Walnut Creek market. She is also president of Contra Costa Certified Farmers' Market (CCCFM) Association Board of Directors. Barbara Kobsar can be reached at [Barbara@cotkitchen.com](mailto:Barbara@cotkitchen.com).

◆ CANDIDATES from page 1

month.

Elected to represent specific geographical districts, MOFD has openings on the November ballot for representatives from Districts One, Three and Four. Maps for each district can be found at [www.mofd.org](http://www.mofd.org).

The deadline for filing is Aug. 12. If an incumbent does not file by the nomination deadline, the seat is extended five calen-

dar days (Aug. 17) to non-incumbents only.

For more information and to obtain a Candidate's Guide for OUSD and MOFD positions, go to <https://www.cocovote.us/>. For a Candidate's Guide for the City Council positions, contact City Clerk Sheri Smith at 925-253-4221 or email [ssmith@cityoforinda.org](mailto:ssmith@cityoforinda.org).

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

**November 8 Elections**

Candidate Filing Deadline: Aug. 12 (Aug. 17 if no incumbent runs)

OUSD/MOFD - [www.cocovote.us](http://www.cocovote.us)

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ORINDA HOME

# Award-Winning Spanish Vineyard Home Holds Special Memories

By CHARLEEN EARLEY  
Editor-in-Chief

Vicky Grillo lives down the street from what many have called one of the most stunning homes in Orinda, a home her late mother Lupita Sutton bought, tore down to the foundation and renovated 15 years ago.

Sutton, who passed away in August of 2021 at age 89, was a widow at the time she purchased the 1950s era ranch-style house, to be near her daughter and three granddaughters. She hired Hyer Architecture to give it a 180-degree transformation.

Hyer Architecture, owned by Fred Hyer, features projects on their website. Sutton's home is the first one to view online, titled "Back to Her Roots."

Sutton's home also won the 2011 (Orinda) Mayor's Award for Excellence in Architecture.

"It is a special joy to be recognized for your work," said Hyer.

Hyer talked about why this one – a one-

of-a-kind, custom build design – was so unique.

"The courtyards and large arched openings which connect the house to the site, the entry tower and foyer, which is a nod to the vernacular, provides a formal organization to the floor plan, and also functions as a passive cooling vent stack ... oh, and the hidden gutters and deep-set windows," said Hyer.

There were some challenges along the way.

"Working on the ridge top invites a lot of scrutiny and restrictions from the planning department and neighbors," said Hyer. "And working on a steep slope, challenges any desire to expand the footprint."

The client and contractors complement the best-laid plans – which is why Hyer doesn't take all the credit.

"Clients are the real drivers of what we, as architects, get to build, and contractors are the ones who do the actual putting together of the vision we set down on paper," he said. "I am grateful for the wonderful



IAN COLEMAN

Sold for \$2.7 million by The **Patty Dwyer** Group/Compass last month, 10 Crestview Ct. in Orinda was a rebuild 15 years ago by the late **Lupita Sutton**, who bought the original 1950s era rancher home, in order to be near her daughter and three granddaughters.

team of owner and contractor I had the fortune to be a part of on this project."

Grillo, along with her brother who lives in San Diego with his wife and dogs, sold the house last month, said, "I don't know that I will miss it. I live four houses down and will always have many lasting memories of wonderful celebrations we had there as a family."

She talked about what made the home so special.

"Seeing how happy it made my mom," said Grillo. "And the Spanish architecture to honor her heritage. Her maiden name was Rubio, she was born in Barcelona Spain."

Nine years ago, Sutton also created a vineyard on the property, producing award-winning wines, which she bottled off-site.

Listing agent Diane Dwyer, of The Patty Dwyer Group/Compass, said Sutton bought the home for \$890,000 and sold it for \$2.7 million, and said this was one of her favorite homes to sell.

Dwyer spoke to what she loved about the property.

"Everything, honestly," she said. "I love it for the story of a grandmother wanting to live close to her granddaughters and daughter. I'm also a sucker for Spanish architecture, and Lupita did a beautiful job building a new Spanish home that has authentic, old-world character. Plus, I love the view and the vineyard. It's like living in a winery on vacation!"

An Orinda home like this, Dwyer said, is a rare find.

"To find a home built in the last 15 years

of this quality with a view and vineyard is almost impossible to find," she said. "Lupita didn't spare a penny on this home, from the copper gutters to the 'cooling' tower and La Cantina doors."

Grillo said her mom had no prior knowledge of running a vineyard but learned everything she needed to know. Her granddaughters, who called Sutton "Abuela," helped pick grapes every September and October along with family, friends and neighbors.

Dwyer said Sutton sold her grapes to local wineries to create various wines.

"She received some of the wine and the winemaker would sell the rest," said Dwyer. "Her label was a private label, her grapes (turned into wine) sold under a variety of labels, including the Parkmon Sauvignon Blanc that won the Best White Wine award by the Contra Costa County Winegrowers Association in 2012."

Before purchasing the home, Sutton lived in Lafayette off Old Milestone Lane with her husband, Don W. Sutton, who passed in 1992.

While Sutton was born in Spain, from age four she was raised in Caracas, Venezuela. She created this Orinda home to reflect her roots to share with her family and friends. With that chapter now closed, Grillo is thrilled a new chapter will begin for others.

"I'm happy a new family has settled in," said Grillo. "They will be given the chance to create new memories in a special place."

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



IAN COLEMAN

Lupita Sutton, together with Hyer Architecture, designed the house to reflected her Venezuelan roots.

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## OBITUARIES

# Remembering Rosie Heim, a Giving Mother



COURTESY OF THE HEIM FAMILY

A surgical nurse for most of her life, **Rosie Heim** volunteered as a driver for The Orinda Association's Seniors Around Town program during her retirement.

By THE HEIM FAMILY

**R**osalie Heim, better known as Rosie, passed away in her sleep on June 10. She is survived by her sons John and Ken Heim and daughter Anne Heim-King. She is also survived by her grandchildren, Samantha and Elecia Heim, Shanel, Lyndsey and Alex Parette. And we are sure she was met by her angel granddaughter Marlena Rose Heim upon her passing.

Rosie was a surgical RN at Children's Hospital in Oakland for much of her life and retired from Alta Bates Hospital in Berkeley. She continued

to share her compassion and kindness by volunteering for many years as a driver for Seniors Around Town where she helped many seniors get to medical and other necessary appointments. She also volunteered at numerous thrift stores for charitable causes.

Rosie was graced with a deep inner beauty as well as an outer beauty. She gave everything to whatever project she took on including the most amazing camping trips and potato salad all designed for her kids' happiness. She also had an amazing sense of humor that often captured us by surprise. She was not only our mom and Nana, but she was our friend, and she will be greatly missed.

Please donate any gifts to your charity of choice. She did have a great love of children and animals in need if you are undecided.

A Celebration of Life will take place Aug. 8 at 11 a.m. at Orinda Community Church, 10 Irwin Way.

◆ DANCING from page 1

borders to aid those in need in the region, state and around the world.

Recent Rotary service projects include Meals on Wheels, the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano, tutoring for schools in Oakland and Richmond, outings for the Boys and Girls Club of Oakland and emergency aid to those affected by wildfires in California.

Internationally, Orinda Rotary funded a children's library and the installation of solar panels for an eye clinic in Zambia, run by International Vision Volunteers.

The Rotary Club of Orinda sincerely thanks the community for its generous support of its service projects and looks forward to seeing everyone Sept. 9.

For information to enter or attend the Sept. 10 Car Show, visit [www.orindacarshow.com](http://www.orindacarshow.com).

*Melissa Roeder can be reached at [cmroeder@comcast.net](mailto:cmroeder@comcast.net).*

◆ OUSD from page 7

Directions, as stated by OUSD, are "built on current strengths and accomplishments, will grow existing effective practices and initiatives and will provide direction on how to improve our services to our students, families and staff members."

Creating OUSD's latest statement and directions involved gathering feedback from various stakeholders, including parent groups, staff groups, student and alumni surveys and community member presentations. The review and revision process began in Aug. 2021 with stakeholder input meetings.

"[Superintendent Glimme] interviewed representatives from teacher groups, and other employee groups. It was impressive, the wide group of stakeholders she interviewed," OUSD Board of Trustees President Carol Brown said on July 11. Brown said that the "main impetus" for the update was the retirement of the former superintendent, Dr. Carolyn Seaton, who served the district for five years.

A preliminary priority and needs assessment was completed in Nov. 2021, as OUSD's timeline of the review and revision process illustrates. Staff, student, parent and community feedback was collected through surveys and forums in early 2022. Data analysis of factors such as student enrollment, student achievement and staff and mental health data helped the district build "shared knowledge" to contribute to stakeholder feedback.

OUSD's Strategic Directions include four main points that address student learning, a strong sense of community, a dedicated staff and district financial stability.

The new statement and plan will be supported by OUSD's Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP), which was also updated this past June. The district's original 2021-'24 LCAP, informed by the 2017 Strategic Plan, underwent review and revision to address challenges in the original LCAP and also address the continuous changes, challenges and uncertainties

created by the COVID-19 pandemic, as highlighted by the latest LCAP.

During the input gathering process for the plan, which began last fall, staff, parents, recent alums and current students attending grades four through eight were surveyed. A synthesis of the input sessions revealed mental health and student wellness "becoming a significant priority."

The LCAP notes an increase in services helping foster youth, English-learning students and low-income students is expected, with the "targeted supports" including an English Language Development (ELD) teacher, English Learner Family Engagement and Summer Support for Students.

The three goals behind the revamped LCAP include a focus on universal student access to quality education and appropriate supports, the providing for students' emotional, physical and social needs, as well as an inclusive learning environment and qualified school staff.

According to the LCAP, Orinda Union School District is considered one of the highest performing districts in California. OUSD, which employs over 300 teachers, support staff and administrators, has 2,486 enrolled students. Despite a slight decline in student enrollment in the last two years, an increase in district enrollment is projected in the coming years.

OUSD's Strategic Directions also includes the Board of Trustees' annual goals and priorities and the Single Plan for Student Achievement (SPSA). The SPSA is an annual plan that includes data and actions to achieve a school's goals. The priority areas of the Strategic Directions are reviewed every three to five years, according to OUSD's May presentation, and targets and timelines are also reviewed annually.

"[The new Mission Statement is] really going to guide us," Board of Trustees President Brown said. "We are going to provide the very best education for all students at their appropriate levels."

*Andrea Madison can be reached at [drea.madison.05@gmail.com](mailto:drea.madison.05@gmail.com).*

## Kristen Southworth Passed Away

The Orinda Chamber of Commerce is sad to report that President Kristen Southworth, who resigned her position for personal health reasons in late June, passed away Saturday, July 16.

The Board of Directors much appreciated Kristen's multiple year commitment to the Chamber and her willingness to take a leadership role in the all-volunteer organization. Her good humor, solid ethics and business insight will very much be missed by all who met her.

Past President (2016 through 2018) Roy Hodgkinson has accepted the role as President for the rest of this calendar year. He can be reached at [president@orindachamber.org](mailto:president@orindachamber.org).



Kristen Southworth.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



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FINANCIAL NEWS

FINANCIAL NEWS

WHY RATES SHOULD INTEREST INVESTORS

DAVID BORN, CFA, CFP



The Federal Reserve has begun raising interest rates to tame inflation. By setting the price of money at higher interest rates, the Fed hopes the price of everything else will stop going up so much.

This has a broad impact on your portfolio.

Higher interest rates make investments go down today so that new buyers can expect higher returns going forward. A better price for a buyer today means better returns tomorrow. The “better price today” means lower prices of stocks, bonds, real estate, and any asset providing a return that has to compete with interest rates.

Some parts of your portfolio will also be hit by the economy, slowing effects of interest rates.

Higher interest rates make for higher monthly payments on mortgages, making home purchases less attractive to borrowers. The same dynamic impacts business investments and consumer spending across the economy.

All else being equal that should reduce inflation by broadly reducing demand for goods and services. Less demand means less business, and that is bad for your 401k.

This one-two punch combination is what has led to the worst first half for stocks since 1970. But that record overly dramatizes the damage done to stocks so far because the market happened to top out just as the calendar changed. There have actually been five years with bigger drops in the S&P 500 since just 2000. The average intra-year decline during that time is not too far off at 16%.

Rather, what makes the investor pain in 2022 exceptional relates back to the direct impact of interest rates on all investments. Most of the time, bonds maintain their value or even increase when stocks fall, but not this year. The low starting level of interest rates has made the decline in prices particularly painful for bond investors.

For example, long term treasuries started the fourth quarter of 2021 with about a 2% yield, which hardly makes a dent in the decline in price of over 20% since October when I described cash as the only place to hide from short term spikes in interest rates. Similarly, the SPDR Bloomberg High Yield Bond ETF lost over 15% since last August when I wrote that junk bond yields of 3% were not worth the risk. Pardon the victory lap.

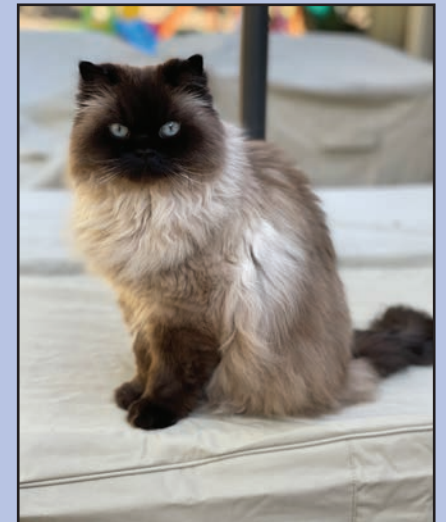
Today the outlook for high yield bonds depends largely on the path of the economy and defaults for the shakier companies that borrow in that market.

Long-term treasury yields in the neighborhood of 3.5% still look paltry especially compared to the tandem risks of inflation and continued rising rates.

It may look like those two risks are ebbing when gas and car prices inevitably fall. But many economists believe that somewhat higher long-term inflation or interest rates are natural consequences of deglobalization and tighter labor markets. Those trends could be here to stay a while.

David Born can be reached at [dborn@pfmpartner.com](mailto:dborn@pfmpartner.com).

Pets of the Month



MONICA ALAMI

“Larry (yellow tabby) and Big Face (Himalayan) are brothers from another mother,” said Monica Alami. They’re both 15-years-old. Alami added, “Larry enjoys begging for treats around the clock, sunbathing and despite having no teeth – killing the occasional lizard and bringing it into the house. Big Face spends his time exploring the outdoors, running laps around the house and harassing his brother Larry. They’re two old men but are very patient with their “sisters” Layla (4) and Sofia (2).”

◆ CHEF from page 4

check on him.

In addition to her hands-on work, Girdlestone and her friends raised over \$32,000 for the WCK, some of it, from Lamorinda donors.

“I’ve always been interested in charitable causes. I’m now working with the Sydney Paige Foundation, a local, women-owned company, that provides backpacks and supplies to underserved children, including here in Contra Costa County,” said Girdlestone.

She hopes to return to Poland and get back into that kitchen: “I’m just trying to figure out if my kids will let me go for a week.”

Want to help the WCK? Visit [wck.org](http://wck.org).

David Fonseca can be reached at [davef52@gmail.com](mailto:davef52@gmail.com).



COURTESY OF SHARON GIRDLESTONE

Orinda resident, Chef Sharon Girdlestone, proudly wears her World Central Kitchen T-shirt. The World Central Kitchen is first to the frontlines, providing meals in response to humanitarian crises globally.

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