



THE ORINDA NEWS

Gratis
Volume 33, Number 12

Published by The Orinda Association
Delivered to 9,000 Households and Businesses in Orinda

12 Issues Annually
December 2018

A Sweet Dream Nutcracker Celebrates Its 10th Anniversary

By SALLY HOGARTY
Editor

A festive Christmas party with wonderful presents, a dreamy trip to the Land of Sweets, and a favorite toy come to life, what more could a young girl want? Not much if you're Clara in Orinda Ballet Academy's production of *A Sweet Dream Nutcracker*.

Celebrating its 10th year, the popular holiday event will once again grace the stage at the Orinda Library Auditorium with approximately 80 talented students, ranging in age from 3 – 18 years, and professional dancers making dreams come true. This year's extravaganza takes place Dec. 7 at 6:30 p.m., Dec. 8 at 11:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. and Dec. 9 at 11:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. The student dancers are divided into two casts.

"We have a few special additions for this year's performance," says Founder and Artistic Director Patricia Tomlinson. "One fun change is we are having a Mouse

Queen versus the Mouse King with a fun *pas de deux* battle between the Nutcracker and Mouse Queen."

Taking the stage alongside the student dancers will be professional dancers Alysia Chang (Snow Queen, Waltz of the Flowers Dew Drop, Arabian Coffee); Jacob Kreamer (Nutcracker and Cavalier); Richard Link (Uncle Drosselmeyer, Spanish and Arabian dancer); and Jackie McConnell (Sugar Plum Fairy and Mouse Queen). Also bringing their expertise to the performance are alumni dancers Alyssa Palano and Ashley Brolin (Spanish and Arabian dancers). Adult volunteers for the party scene include parents Cheri Etheredge, Juliet Montagnon and Jill Ellis.

"This is quite an undertaking for our small company," adds Tomlinson. "We have more than 1,000 costumes, and it takes our student dancers a full three and a half months to learn all their many dances. It's quite a commitment from the student

[SEE BALLET page 4]



PATRICIA TOMLINSON

Orinda Ballet Academy brings the holiday spirit to life Dec. 7-9 in *A Sweet Dream Nutcracker*, now in its 10th year on the stage of the Orinda Library Auditorium. Dancers from "The Land of Sweets" (L-R): **Amali Chatterjee** (Waltz of the Flowers), **Lila Moss** (Ribbon Candy), **Claire Mercer** (Clara), **Elsa Cooke** (Spanish Hot Chocolate), and **Sofia Paraskaki** (Russian Tea Cakes).

Tree of Lights Ceremony on Dec. 1



DAVID DIERKS

Orinda's elementary school choirs sing festive carols at the 2017 **Tree of Lights** ceremony.

Celebrate the start of the holiday season at the 32nd annual Hospice Tree of Lights ceremony on Saturday, Dec. 1, in front of Bank of America, 31 Orinda Way in Orinda Village. The ceremony begins at 4:30 p.m. and will include performances by elementary and middle school choirs before the lighting of the beloved oak tree and a special visit from Santa Claus. Community members can purchase a light in memory of a loved one that has passed, with all proceeds going to Hospice East Bay in support of their compassionate end-of-life care.

The first Tree of Lights ceremony was held in Danville in 1986, organized by Winifred "Win" Haagensen who was inspired to raise funds and awareness for Hospice East Bay after the organization helped her husband find comfort in his final days. The event grew from year to year and spread to a number of nearby communities.

For more information on purchasing a light or to donate to Hospice, go to www.hospiceeastbay.org.

— Lynn Kalmar, Assistant Editor

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Musical Holiday Feasts in Orinda

By BOBBIE DODSON
Staff Writer

Orinda Churches will offer a wide variety of activities and services during the Christmas season. A selection of activities and services offered by various congregations follows:

At **St. Stephen's Episcopal Church**, 66 St. Stephens Drive (254-3770), the Christmas season begins with an Advent Open House on Dec. 2 after the 10 a.m. service. There will be Advent bread making resulting in Advent bread wreaths to take home. Participants will also work together making a Nativity scene to adorn the parish hall through the season of Christmas. In the

[SEE CHURCHES page 8]



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Young performers prepare to tell the Christmas story in last year's pageant at **Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church**.

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LIBRARY GALLERY

Artwork to Welcome Winter in Library Gallery This December

By ELANA O'LOSKEY
Staff Writer

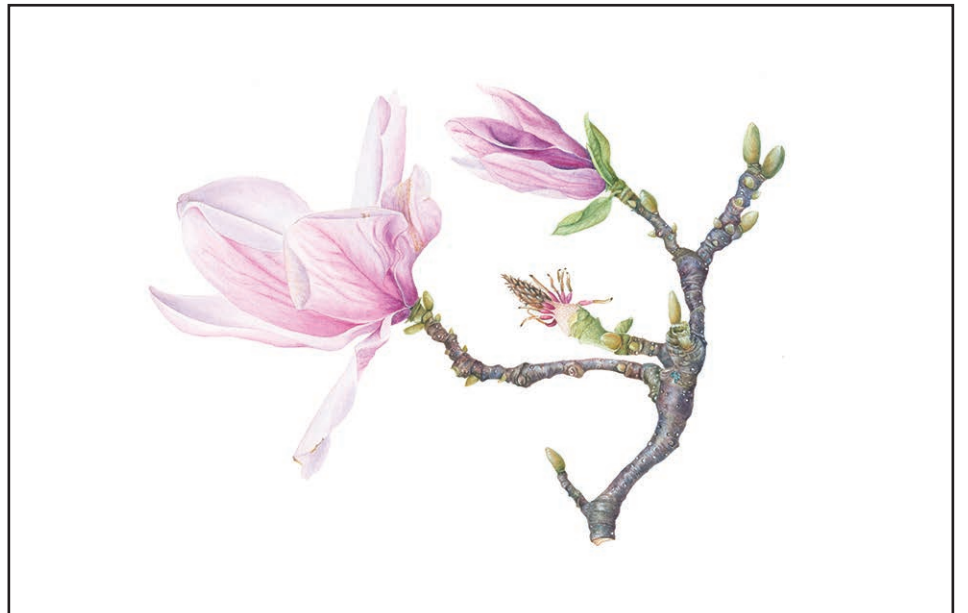
The Lamorinda Arts Council will present the paintings of Lynette Ley, Rita Sklar and Joel Tesch and the ceramics of Terry Mar during the month of December at the Art Gallery in the Orinda Library. Join them on Sunday, Dec. 2 from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. for an artist reception where light refreshments will be served. Help the artists in welcoming winter by forgetting about the rain and cold for a while and looking up, up, up at the chunks of color in their artwork on the walls and in the cabinets. Meet other art lovers and think of Mary Oliver's poem, *White-Eyes*: "In winter / all the singing is in / the tops of the trees."

Lynette Ley of Orinda grew up in a farming family surrounded by nature's gifts of trees, flowers, plants and vegetables in her father's backyard garden. As she grew

older, he taught her much about agriculture and horticulture. From him, she learned to cherish and appreciate the beauty of plants and this love eventually drew her to botanical art. In 2013, she began drawing and painting, first with graphite and colored pencil, then watercolors and acrylics.

Botanical art is a very precise and scientifically accurate type of illustration. It requires many hours of plant study to understand and depict a plant realistically in a two-dimensional painting. Ley took her first botanical art class from Sally Petru, president of the American Society of Botanical Artists, in 2015. Drawing and painting all kinds of objects that have a meaningful story or memory attached to them is also of great interest to her.

She trusts her theme, *Stories in Art*, reveals a lot about who she is and what she finds inspiring and interesting. Her hope is that people appreciate the beauty in the



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Candy's Magnolia, Lynette Ley's 16" x 12" watercolor on paper, brings the delicate beauty of botanical art to the Gallery this month.

simple subjects and nature she depicts in her work. The tender beauty of *Candy's Magnolia*, her 16" x 12" botanical watercolor on paper, would make even the formidable Redouté shiver with delight. Go to www.lynetteleyart.com to see more of her artwork.

Rita Sklar of Castro Valley had an artist for a mom who gifted her with a box of oil paints when she was 10 years old. She really enjoyed using them with her mother's guidance until she entered junior high school. At that time, she lost interest in painting but finally got back into it 20 years ago when she signed up for a watercolor class. Recently, she branched out to mixed media, collage and acrylics, combinations which she finds fascinating.

Showing 25 plus small paintings, she hopes viewers walk away with some of the joy she felt while creating the paintings. Music lovers will appreciate *The Jazz Man*, a 16" x 12" watercolor that strums a standup bass tune in your head if you look at it long enough. The list of venues where Sklar has shown work is long; she has won many awards in juried shows. Often, she explores the dimensionality – emotional, perceptive and symbolic – of vanishing species and traditions. Her affection for wildlife can reveal, at the same time, the violence and the tenderness of our times. Searching for new ways to express the diversity of our fragile world keeps her busy. Visit www.ritasklar.com to view her extensive body of work.

Joel Tesch of Orinda had a preschool teacher make a book of his cartoon drawings when he was three years old – now that's starting young. He confesses to constant doodling and drawing throughout his life. While his day job is at Fictiv (www.fictiv.com) a company he describes as, "A super cool startup that helps companies

make things faster!" – it hasn't stopped him from painting for the last 12 years. That's because 12 years ago when he met his wife-to-be, he was inspired to do a painting of the Golden Gate Bridge for her as a gift. Along with falling in love with her, he fell back in love with drawing and painting.

He is showing 10 plus works in large and small sizes and works mostly from photographs. Themes include his *Wild Skies Series*, large paintings with dynamic contrast and saturated color. *An Elegant Awakening*, a 48" x 36" acrylic on canvas painting, will appeal to anyone who appreciates the sun as it breaks through the clouds in a riot of blues, oranges and yellows. His *Icon Series* includes paintings of Aretha Franklin, Freddie Mercury and Michael Jackson. At www.joeltesch.com you can visit his full art gallery with 13 categories of acrylic paintings.

Terry Mar, also of Castro Valley, has been working with ceramics since 1980. As he learned more about ceramics, he was drawn to the raku process because it allowed him to be more creative. Every aspect of raku glaze firing inspires him because he gets to "play with fire," using mixes of white and red clay bodies to get different glaze colors and reactions. Mar prefers the raku process because he doesn't like making the same thing twice and with raku it's almost impossible to do that anyway because of its dynamic nature.

Raku pottery is fired at a relatively low temperature and removed while hot to a closed container with combustible materials in it such as newspaper and pine needles; it then ignites. This produces an intense reduction atmosphere which affects the colors in glazes and clay bodies. The thermal shock also produces cracking, known as crackling since it is deliberate.

[SEE GALLERY page 6]



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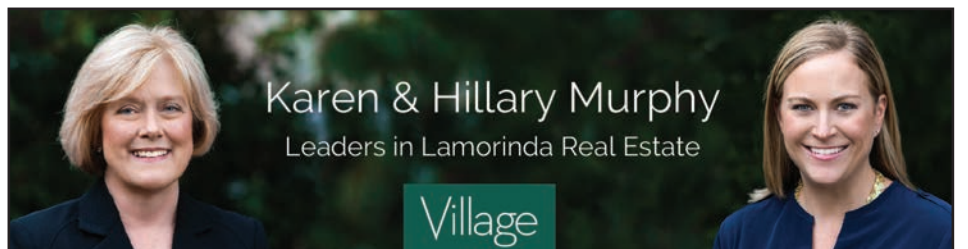
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- Greg, Orinda seller, 2018

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THE ORINDA ASSOCIATION

A Message From the OA President
Orinda is Bright and Beautiful



Cindy Powell

Let's kick off December with a **Shop Orinda Day!** Our town is beautiful and full of good things to do! In the morning on Dec. 1, thank the Orinda Garden Club for hanging wreaths around town. Both sides of town will be busy with holiday shopping and entertainment. Take the family on a walk around town, eat some lunch, and buy or win some holiday gifts. At 4 p.m., enjoy the **Orinda Hospice Tree Lighting Ceremony.** Come to see cute singers from our schools and a beautiful tree of lights while also getting a photo with Santa. The **Miramonte Winter Ball** takes place later that evening. Thank you to parents and staff who create and host this beautiful event.

Don't forget the eight-day Jewish celebration of **Hanukkah**, also known as Chanukah, which begins Dec. 2 and runs through Dec. 10.

Disability Day on Dec. 3 encourages a better understanding of people affected by a disability while promoting the benefits of integrating disabled persons into every aspect of life, from economic, to political, to social and cultural. Disability Day encompasses all known disabilities, from Autism to Down Syndrome to Multiple Sclerosis.

The Orinda **Chamber of Commerce Holiday Party** on Dec. 6 will bring local businesses together to toast out-going president Roy Hodgkinson and the team.

Orinda Ballet Academy presents **A Sweet Dream Nutcracker** at the Orinda Library Theater Dec. 7-9. The dancers and their costumes are tops! And they have matinee times so every age can enjoy this show.

International Children's Day, on Dec. 8, is a joint initiative between UNICEF and the International Academy of Television Arts and Sciences (the Emmy Awards people). It's a day when broadcasters "tune in to kids."

Human Rights Day on Dec. 10 was created by the United Nations 70 years ago to promote awareness of the importance of Human Rights issues around the world. Be grateful for your rights every day.

Orinda Theatre loves the holiday season and will show the classic movie, **A Christmas Story**, free on Dec. 13. On Dec. 16 award winning Broadway and **Cabaret** star **Karen Mason** will be live on stage, part of the ongoing **Live At the Orinda** concert series.

Dec. 13 is **National Horse Day.** Did you know that horses have healing powers? Equine therapists at Xenophon Therapeutic Riding Center here in Orinda offer experiences for children with a wide range of disabilities in a safe and secure environment. We should also remember the economic, historic, and cultural contributions that horses have made. **Free Shipping Day** is Dec. 14, when online shopping slows down just before the middle of the month. Shoppers are afraid orders won't be delivered in time for Christmas or there will be large shipping fees. This spurs online sales. Here at The Orinda Association, it is the last day we are collecting for our **One Warm Coat drive.**

Dec. 21, the **Winter Solstice**, marks the beginning of winter and during the shortest day of the year, at 2:23 p.m. in Orinda, the sun begins its return to the northern hemisphere and every day forward will see more sun. Or better yet, it is also **Ugly Christmas Sweater Day!!** It's a fashion statement, a fundraising opportunity, or both. I like my funky sweaters and will probably not part with them, but I have seen a few eyesores that need to be purchased off their owners.

Dec. 21 is also **Crossword Puzzle Day.** Not only are they fun, but challenging crossword puzzles may help delay the effects of dementia and sharpen your brain for problem solving. In winter, they kept us busy when it got dark before TV and cell phones.

I'm not sure how you could forget this date with all the advertising, but **Christmas Day** is, of course, Dec. 25. May this holiday season bring you peace, hope and friendship.

New Year's Eve, Dec. 31, of course, is the perfect opportunity to celebrate **National Champagne Day.** Look back on this year and make a resolution to improve your life and the lives of those around you. Volunteer your time, donate your extra items and support our wonderful town. Remember, The Orinda Association is a non-profit organization: Use the enclosed envelope to renew your support of our programs which include *The Orinda News*, the July 4th Parade, Seniors Around Town, free public forums and the Volunteer Center. **Wishing you a safe and healthy 2019!**

The Orinda Association

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

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

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The Orinda News



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Crystal D'Amato

Editorial...

So many of our fellow Bay Area residents are facing a very different holiday season this year following the destruction of the Camp Fire. While we've all had to deal with very unhealthy air to breathe, at least we've had a home to shelter in. I can't imagine how people who have lost everything must feel. While we contemplate holiday gifts, our fellow citizens have the daunting task

of finding more permanent shelter. Perhaps, a nonprofit relief organization helping those displaced could find its way to your gift list?

I wish everyone a happy and safe holiday and hope that the fire victims find something special this holiday season that provides respite from a truly harrowing experience.

– Sally Hogarty, Editor

Letters to the Editor...

BART Should Not Build Housing

BART (Bay Area Rapid Transit) wants to control land use in Orinda and other communities.

In an Oct. 10, 2018, letter to Orinda Mayor Amy Worth, Grace Crunican, the general manager of BART, wrote: "BART aims to partner with local communities to build new housing units at our stations and to ensure that at least 35 percent are affordable."

BART now has the capacity to become involved in local communities' housing matters because, on Sept. 30, 2018, Gov. Jerry Brown signed Assembly Bill 2923 which gave BART the power, on BART-owned or BART-controlled land, to become involved in housing.

BART is a transportation organization and is not in the real-estate business. BART should not be telling Orinda how the city is to handle real-estate issues.

Ms. Crunican's BART letter mentions "affordable" housing. The term "affordable" needs to be quantified. Does "affordable" mean a home price of \$1 million? A decent house in Orinda can cost \$1.8 million or much more.

Who will qualify for affordable housing? Ms. Crunican fails to list the criteria for people who would qualify for this housing. Do these people have to have jobs? Are they free of medical problems like drug addiction? Are they willing to comply with Orinda's ordinances? Ms. Crunican does not say.

Instead of building more housing, BART should be considering other options.

There is the distinct possibility that extra housing will not be needed. In a June 2018 survey, the Bay Area Council, a business group, reported that 46 percent of the Bay Area residents plan to leave the Bay Area in the next few years. Thus, the Bay Area's current population of seven million could drop to 3.8 million.

Another idea is that BART, other governmental agencies and nonprofit organizations should consider supporting something akin to Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal programs.

From 1933 to 1942, the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) gave young people outdoor jobs to plant trees, construct trails, and upgrade parks. Other New Deal agencies helped build roads, schools, highways,

dams and bridges.

BART is now linked to housing units that may not be needed. BART should not have any say in the use of Orinda's precious land.

–Richard S. Colman

To all my Supporters in the Recent Election

Thank you for electing me to the Orinda City Council. I am very grateful to my campaign committee who worked tirelessly on my behalf, to all who endorsed me, to all who contributed to my campaign, to all who took the time to visit with me as I walked the neighborhoods and to all who in the end voted for me. I am humbled at the confidence you have placed in me. I look forward to the opportunity to serve the citizens of Orinda as a Councilman.

– Dennis Fay

◆ BALLET from page 1

performers and their families, but there are also many rewards that come with being part of this fun holiday ballet tradition."

Tomlinson also wears many hats with this show including director, choreographer and, often, seamstress.

"*Nutcracker* is one of my favorite ballets and to be honest I never get tired of hearing the music and working on the dances," she says. "It is also wonderful to see how the students progress through the different dances each year as they develop into beautiful ballet dancers!"

Tomlinson founded Orinda Ballet in April of 2009 and has built a well-respected academy attended by students throughout Lamorinda. Tomlinson, herself, had a distinguished career as a dancer. She studied with such legends as George Balanchine, Alexandra Danilova, Peter Martins and Helgi Tomasson. She was also chosen by Natalia Makarova to perform in the former prima ballerina's company in New York City. Tomlinson continued her career as a soloist and principal with Houston Ballet Company, Pennsylvania Ballet and Diablo Ballet. She has also guest performed, taught and set ballets throughout the United States before committing herself to teaching the next generation of dancers through Orinda Ballet.

For those not familiar with the beloved story, *The Sweet Dream Nutcracker* tells of young Clara, who is given a special Nut-



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cracker doll from her Uncle Drosselmeyer. Later that night, the Nutcracker, along with various toy soldiers and mice, magically transform to life size and take Clara on an adventurous journey through the Enchanted Winter Forest to the Land of Sweets. They encounter lots of colorful characters along the way including frolicking Snowflakes and their gorgeous Snow Queen, dancing Russian Tea Cakes, Gingerbread Cookies, Jack in the Box Clowns and Jesters, and an

adorable pre-ballet division of Peppermint and Wintermint Sweets.

"The ballet students are working super hard, and we are thankful for the Orinda community's support of the arts by attending our performances," Tomlinson adds.

Tickets to *A Sweet Dream Nutcracker* are \$22 in advance and \$25 at the door. Go to www.brownpapertickets.com. For more information on Orinda Ballet Academy, go to www.orindaballetacademy.com.

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) and distributed to key locations throughout the city.

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 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

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

Send letters to: Editor, *The Orinda News*, P.O. Box 97, Orinda, CA 94563, or email to news@orindaassociation.org. Letters to Editor for the January issue are due December 8, 2018.

For display advertising rates, call Jill Gelster at 925-528-9225 (jill@aspenconsult.net) or Elana O'Loskey at 925-984-1751 (elanao@mac.com). The deadline for the January issue is December 8, 2018.

POLICE / ELECTION

Bauer-Kahan Wins In Close State Assembly Race

By LYNN KALMAR
Assistant Editor

This January, Orinda resident Rebecca Bauer-Kahan will be heading to Sacramento to represent District 16 in the State Assembly for the first time.

Bauer-Kahan defeated incumbent Catherine Baker in a close race that finally came to a conclusion on Nov. 16, after

days of ballot counting in both Contra Costa and Alameda counties. Election night had Baker in the lead, but as mail-in and provisional ballots continued to roll in, the race tightened with Bauer-Kahan ultimately pulling ahead to receive 51.13 percent compared to Baker's 48.87 percent of the vote (at press time). Although there were still a small number of ballots left to count, by Nov. 16 Bauer-Kahan had enough

votes to ensure a win and Baker called her opponent to concede the race.

[SEE Bauer-Kahan page 18]



Orinda resident **Rebecca Bauer-Kahan** is District 16's newly elected state assemblywoman.

2018 Orinda Election Results

Orinda City Council:

Amy Worth (incumbent)
Dennis Fay
Nick Kosla

MOFD Division 3:

Steven Danziger

MOFD Division 4:

Results not final at press time

State Assembly:

Rebecca Bauer-Kahan

Acalanes School Board:

Nancy Kendzierski (incumbent)
Bob Hockett (incumbent)
Christopher Severson

OSD Bond Measures:

Measure E (Academic Excellence/STEAM) – Yes
Measure I (Student Safety and School Repair) – Yes

Results not certified until Dec. 4



POLICE BLOTTER

September 30 through November 10, 2018

Calls for Service

- 911 Hangup: 33 incidents.
- Abandoned Vehicle: 4 incidents.
- Accident Injury: 4 incidents.
- Accident Property: 16 incidents.
- Alarm, False: 114 incidents.
- Barking Dog: 1 incident.
- Battery: 4 incidents.
- Burglary, Auto: 4 incidents.
- Burglary, Commercial: 1 incident.
- Burglary, Residential: 3 incidents.
- Civil Matter: 19 incidents.
- CVC Moving Violation: 168 incidents.
- CVC Non-Moving Violation: 98 incidents.
- Dependent Adult Abuse: 2 incidents.
- Disturbing the Peace: 6 incidents.
- Drunk in Public: 1 incident.
- Fire/EMS Response Info: 1 incident.
- Forgery: 1 incident.
- Found Property: 2 incidents.
- Grand Theft: 2 incidents.
- Hailed by Citizen: 1 incident.
- Hit & Run Misdemeanor: 3 incidents.
- Identity Theft: 6 incidents.
- Juvenile Disturbance: 2 incidents.
- Loud Music: 5 incidents.
- Loud Noise: 4 incidents.
- Loud Party: 4 incidents.
- Medical Hospital: 8 incidents.
- Medical Police Needed: 1 incident.
- Missing Adult: 1 incident.
- Motorist Assist: 1 incident.
- Occupied Stalled Vehicle: 3 incidents.
- Ordinance Violation: 7 incidents.
- Outside Assist: 29 incidents.
- Panhandling: 2 incidents.
- Parking Detail: 142 incidents.
- Patrol Request: 52 incidents.
- Petty Theft: 2 incidents.
- Petty Theft from Vehicle: 2 incidents.
- Phone Harassment: 1 incident.
- Public Assembly Check: 2 incidents.

- Public Nuisance: 4 incidents.
- Reckless Driving: 15 incidents.
- Robbery, Armed: 1 incident.
- School Check: 17 incidents.
- Security Check: 40 incidents.
- Service to Citizen: 122 incidents.
- Suspicious Circumstances: 21 incidents.
- Suspicious Person Stop: 28 incidents.
- Suspicious Subject: 7 incidents.
- Suspicious Vehicle: 14 incidents.
- Suspicious Vehicle Stop: 18 incidents.
- Tow: 3 incidents.
- Traffic Collision/Property Damage: 1 incident.
- Traffic Hazard: 12 incidents.
- Trespass: 3 incidents.
- Uncontrollable Juvenile: 1 incident.
- Unknown Problem: 1 incident.
- Vacation House Check: 78 incidents.
- Vandalism: 4 incidents.
- Vehicle Blocking Driveway: 1 incident.
- Vehicle Theft: 1 incident.
- Verbal Dispute: 3 incidents.
- Walk Through: 6 incidents.
- Welfare Check: 20 incidents.

Arrest

- Drunk in Public: 2 arrests.
- Petty Theft: 1 arrest.
- Shoplift: 3 arrests.
- Stolen Car Recovered: 2 recoveries.
- Vehicle Theft: 1 arrest.
- Warrant Arrest: 3 arrests.

BART Statistics

No reported incidents.

– Compiled by David Dierks
Assistant Editor

For more incident details, visit
www.crimereports.com

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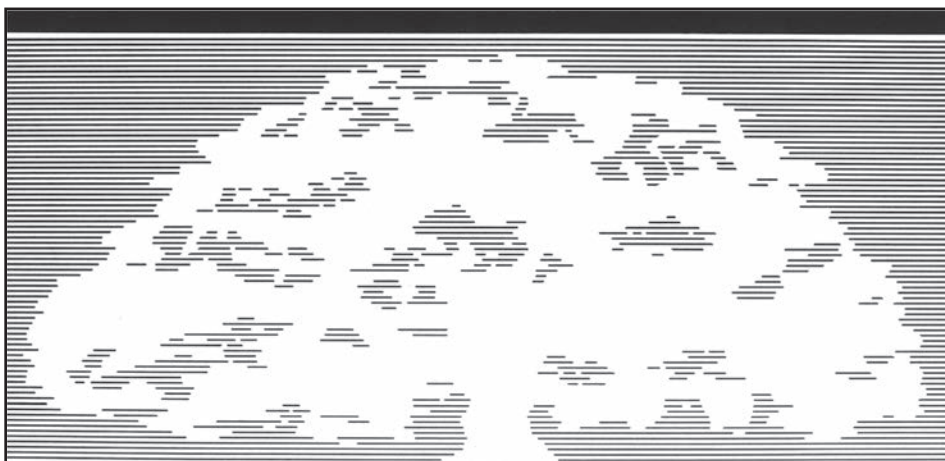
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Check Engine Lights and Your Vehicle



By JOHN VANEK

If you drive a modern vehicle, you may have experienced this annoying phenomenon before: You are driving along minding your own business when a yellow colored light pops on. It may look like a funky picture of an engine. It also may display the words “check engine” or “service engine soon.”

This light is often mistaken for a maintenance light designed to let you know when a factory recommended service interval is due. The check engine light is a whole different story. It lets you know that there is a malfunction with one of your engine management components or systems. It often causes panic and unrest to the person behind the wheel. Does my car need engine work? Will this be expensive?

The words “check engine” are misleading. Perhaps “malfunction” would be a better choice. Now let’s get back to how much it is going to cost. That is a good question.

A check engine light is like a porch light with a hundred switches. There are literally hundreds of different reasons why your check engine light may come on.

Times have changed. Car parts like carburetors and points have been replaced with computer-controlled parts such as oxygen sensors and idle air control valves, to name a couple. These parts are controlled and monitored by your engine management computer. If they go out of a specific electronic range, the computer will recognize it and turn on the check engine light. There are other scenarios that can cause the light to come on such as vacuum leaks, transmission problems or even a loose gas cap.

Why is this necessary? Do I really want to know if my car is failing? Well, the government thought you did or should. This is how the OB2 program came to be. The government mandated manufacturers to have this system on all new cars sold to help

control vehicles emissions. Yes, big brother is alive and well in the automotive industry.

Modern cars are designed to monitor engine control functions, including tailpipe emissions and evaporative fuel leaks. If these systems are problematic, the check engine light comes on.

If the “check engine” light comes on, the vehicle will not pass the smog test. The “on-board diagnostic” system does actually serve to pre-warn you of future faults. Many times, faulty components can be determined and can be replaced before they ultimately fail.

This brings me to the moral of this tale. Do not ever, ever, ever and I mean ever ignore a “check engine” light! The long-term effects of doing so are often harmful, sometimes unknown, and usually not good for your pocket book. Even the small engine control components will affect the exhaust system. Your catalytic converter is very sensitive to the gases that come through the tailpipe and engine miss-fires.

Long term neglect of such a thing is a silent killer that can cause problems down the road. While many other different scenarios are too complex to explain in a few paragraphs, the point is to have the “check engine” light diagnosed as soon as possible. A flashing engine light indicates the vehicle

should not be driven.

Nobody can tell you the cost of the related repair until you or more likely a mechanic can communicate with your on-board diagnostic system and retrieve a code that represents the failing system to perform related diagnosis. Easy as that. It is best left to professionals that you can trust. Pulling a code is not that big of a deal. Coming up with the accurate diagnosis that will fix the problem and make it stay fixed is another story. “Check engine” lights are a part of car ownership. Car maintenance and the grade of fuel used can also come into play. Pick your car care provider carefully and be a good consumer of auto repair.

John Vanek can be reached at john@orindamotors.com.

◆ GALLERY from page 2

His theme for the 40 plus pieces he is showing is *Raku – Abstract Colors and Textures on Ceramics*. How grand to see so many pieces and not one looking like another! For example, curvaceous lines and subtly washed teals and taupes wrap their arms around Mar’s *Vase III*, an 8” x 6” raku ceramic work. He mixes all his own glazes and says, “I can get relatively consistent colors and results by doing this, yet each piece is different.” To learn more about Mar’s raku adventures visit <https://www.facebook.com/Maraku-Pottery-718807158150013>.

Regarding the value of art to the community, Ley says, “I love watching kids awed by the Wheely Whirly Peacock art structure outside the Orinda Library or watching a musician play and see the expression on her face change as she enters the ‘zone’ – oblivious to everything else but music. I feel goosebumps when I hear a beautiful voice reach that high note. Art energizes, relaxes, excites. It allows for all emotions to come through.”

Introducing the community to different artists every month is something Sklar describes as “wonderful” and attributes to the foresight of the Friends of the Orinda Library. Mar believes that pursuing any art form develops creativity which he sees as transferable to any endeavor, be it engineering, science, carpentry or plumbing. Like Mar, Tesch agrees, saying, “Art’s overall aesthetic can be applied to almost everything from business to how you interact with family and friends.”

Visit the gallery at 26 Orinda Way during normal library hours – Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; and Sunday, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. The library will be closed on Dec. 24 and 25 and closes at 5 p.m. on Dec. 31. Call 925-254-2184 for more information or visit <http://ccclib.org>.



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LEGAL HELP/AWARD

The Importance of a Durable Power of Attorney for Your Family

By NOLA CHAVEZ
Contributing Writer

Clients who come to our offices often ask this question. They are also unclear as to how a Durable Power of Attorney (or DPOA) for finances interacts with their trust. This article will answer both those questions but will not cover DPOAs for health care (aka Advance Health Care Directives) – which is a separate topic for another time.

You *must* have capacity to sign a DPOA. You never know when you will need a DPOA so it's a good rule of thumb to have one prepared and signed in case the unthinkable suddenly occurs (for example, you suffer a stroke, you're in a debilitating car accident, you have other medical issues that you know are going to affect your ability to think clearly in the future, etc.). The effect of waiting too long to execute a DPOA can be devastating and expensive because the family may then need to petition the court to appoint a conservator. Remember: You need a DPOA even though you may have a trust in which you've designated successor trustees. Why?

Because your successor trustee(s) will

only have control over the assets that are titled in your trust. If you have a bank account that isn't in your trust, but you want a relative to use that money for your health care needs or you want the money transferred to your trust, you will need to follow specific procedures: The bank won't give that person access to the bank account unless you have executed a DPOA naming that person as your agent, designating him/her as an authorized signator on the account, or putting that person on the account as an owner (which isn't advisable for a variety of reasons). Likewise, if you have insurance policies, retirement plans, long-term care insurance policies, government benefits, or any number of other assets usually not titled in the trust, the personnel at these institutions won't even talk to anyone but the owner of the policy or plan unless that person holds a DPOA from the owner.

So, it is important to keep in mind that both the DPOA and the trust work *together* to allow someone else to take over for you when you become unable or unwilling to manage your financial affairs any longer. For that reason, your named successor trustees in your trust are usually mirrored in your DPOA as your agents.

Orinda Breast Cancer Specialist Honored by American Cancer Society



Dr. Tiffany Svahn.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The American Cancer Society honored Tiffany Svahn, MD, the lead breast cancer specialist at Diablo Valley Oncology and Hematology Medical Group, for her contributions in the fight against cancer at its Ninth Annual Jewel Ball, which took place at the Blackhawk Museum on Oct. 20.

The American Cancer Society's signature East Bay fundraising event, the Jewel Ball celebrates patients and their caregivers, honors individuals who have impacted cancer care and recognizes community investors.

Dr. Svahn has been in private practice since 2006 at Diablo Valley Oncology and Hematology Medical Group. She provides education on cancer awareness, prevention and early detection and throughout her entire career, has been active in cancer research. Dr. Svahn has also actively participated in and supported the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life and Making Strides Against Breast Cancer walk for nearly 10 years.

Slow Down Signs on Hillcrest Drive

Glorietta Elementary student and Hillcrest Drive resident **Ruby Swedeen** and her mother, **Heather Swedeen** (on the right), along with other concerned Hillcrest Drive residents, participated in a sign-waving campaign on Monday, Nov. 5. Handmade posters urged drivers using their street, a direct but unofficial route into Glorietta Elementary, to slow down. "We are hoping this campaign creates awareness and the speeders will slow down," Hillcrest Drive resident Arielle Taylor said. "But if the sign waving is unsuccessful, we will petition the city for speed bumps."



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Finally, you should be aware that there are two kinds of DPOAs: those that come into effect immediately and those that are referred to as "springing."

Those that come into effect immediately should be executed only when you feel you can no longer handle your financial affairs even though you still have capacity. You must be totally comfortable and confident that the person you designate as your agent won't abuse their power to your detriment.

Most people prefer signing "springing" DPOAs, which don't come into effect until it is determined by a doctor and/or by specially-designated relatives or friends – usually, but not always, in consultation with your treating physician – that you

are no longer capable of managing your affairs. The language used in the DPOA can be tailored to suit your preferences. These types of DPOAs are a little more difficult to use because steps have to be taken before they'll come into effect, but if they are drafted to conform to the Probate Code, institutions must accept them or risk being taken to court and paying for attorney fees.

DPOAs are useful tools for you and your family should the need arise. They – like all your other estate planning documents – should be reviewed every few years to make sure they reflect your current desires and designate currently accessible agents to act on your behalf.

Nola Chavez is with Southworth and Chavez, LLP. Visit www.southworthchavez.com.



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GIFTS / BOY SCOUTS

Local Boy Scout Troop Provides Fuel for Life



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Orinda Boy Scout Troop 237, from the Orinda chapter of Grateful Gatherings, made a very special difference in the lives of one family recently. In one day, hard-working Scouts and families were able to furnish a home for a single dad and his four children who recently transitioned out of homelessness. The family had never had a home where they could feel comfortable or safe. Thanks to the Scouts, they don't have to sleep on broken beds and can have a family dinner together at one table. According to the Scouts, the 11-year-old daughter broke down when she saw her room. As the family hugged, the eldest son said, "Thank you, this is going to give us fuel for life."



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Christmas at St. Stephen's

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| Sunday, December 23 | 4th Sunday of Advent: 8 a.m. Christmas Pageant & Family Service: 10 a.m. |
| Monday, December 24 | Family Christmas Service: 4 p.m. Christmas Eve: 8 p.m. (music at 7:30) Christmas Eve: 11 p.m. (music at 10:30) |
| Tuesday, December 25 | Christmas Day: 10 a.m. |
| Sunday, December 30 | First Sunday after Christmas: 8 a.m. & 10 a.m. Fruitcake Sunday (bring leftovers); Service of Lessons & Carols: 4 p.m. |
| Sunday, January 6 | Feast of the Epiphany & Holy Baptism: 8 a.m. & 10 a.m. |

www.ststephensorinda.org

254-3770

◆ CHURCHES from page 1

kitchen, participants will bake and decorate cookies while singing hymns and carols.

On Sunday, Dec. 23 at 10 a.m., a service will be held that invites all to participate in a live-action telling of the story of the birth of Jesus. On Christmas Eve, an afternoon service will welcome children and families at 4 p.m. Choral Eucharist services, including candlelight and Holy Communion will take place at 8 and 11 p.m. with a half hour of music before each service. The 10 a.m. Christmas Day worship will highlight a simple Eucharist.

The **Orinda Community Church**, 10 Irwin Way (254-4906), will hold its Advent Worship on Dec. 2 from 4 to 7 p.m. Featured will be holiday crafts, music, dinner and candlelight caroling. The Christmas Eve service (5 to 6 p.m.) is billed as "a service for all ages in which a pageant and carols pave the way for reflection, sacred music and candlelight." Costumed volunteers, who will enter the sanctuary when their part in the story is being read, will proclaim the Christmas story. At the close of the service, everyone will be given a candle to be lit during the singing of "Silent Night."

Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church, 433 Moraga Way (254-3422), has set its Advent Christmas Music Festival at the 9:30 a.m. service on Dec. 16 that includes the Spirit Borne, Canticle and Bell Choirs. The annual Children's Pageant will follow at 10:45 a.m. Holy Shepherd will have Christmas Eve services at 4, 6 and 10 p.m., the last two are candlelight communion services. During most Sundays of the Thanksgiving / Advent / Christmas season, the community worships with one service at 9:30 a.m.

Father Nicholas Borzghol of the **St. John Orthodox Church**, 501 Moraga

Way (258-4255) says St. John will have a Christmas party on Friday, Dec. 14., at the Holy Trinity Serbian Orthodox Church, 1700 School Street, in Moraga at 6 p.m. in the church hall. On Dec. 24, Matins and Divine Liturgy of the Nativity of Christ is scheduled for 6 p.m. at St. John's.

St. Mark's Methodist Church, 451 Moraga Way (254-5965) hosts a shared meal with Filipino food, Dec. 12 at 5:30 p.m. After a telling of the Nativity Story and sing along, participants will celebrate a traditional Christmas observance from the Philippines by making star lanterns and enjoying a procession. In that country, lanterns represent hope, goodwill and the triumph of light over darkness. At the 5 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Celebration, guests will join in song and watch a dramatic telling of the Nativity story, closing with candlelight and "Silent Night." There will be a collection of new books and teddy bears for foster children.

It's the Presbyterian Women's "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star" Christmas Tea which commences the holiday season at the **Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church**, 49 Knox Drive, Lafayette (283-8722). There will be musical entertainment, tea sandwiches and cookies with tea. Tickets are free, but you need to contact the church if you plant to attend. The "On Christmas Night" Christmas Concert takes place on Saturday, Dec. 8 at 4 p.m., and Sunday, Dec. 9, at 2 and 5 p.m. featuring the Festival Choir and Orchestra with the centerpiece being "Gloria" by Randol Alan Bass. Free tickets are available online only at tickets@lopc.org. On Christmas Eve, there will be family services at 3 and 4 p.m., with traditional services at 7 and 8:30 p.m. followed by a Caroling, Candlelight Communion Service at 11 p.m.

Santa Maria Catholic Church, 40 Santa Maria Way (254-3426) starts the season with kindergarten through fifth grade classes collecting for "Boxes of Joy" and a youth/teen project, Spirit of Giving, to give Christmas presents to families living at Contra Costa Interfaith Housing. On Dec. 2, families will learn about and create their own advent wreaths at 11:30 a.m. in the Parish Hall with a \$25 donation suggested. A Christmas Eve Children's Mass with Children's Choir will begin at 4 p.m. Teen Choirs, ministers from Youth Ministries and those home from college will also share talents for the Mass. The Christmas Eve Mass featuring the Parish Choir takes place at 10 p.m. On Christmas Morning, masses at 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. will celebrate the birth of Christ.

Spokespersons for all of the churches say all are welcome to their events and services as Orindans celebrate the season of Christmas.

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SENIORS AROUND TOWN

Local Couples Support Orinda Seniors Throughout the Year

By KATHRYN G. MCCARTY
Staff Writer

This holiday season, and throughout the year, volunteers for Seniors Around Town (SAT) find joy providing transportation to Orinda seniors.

Cathy Goshorn, who coordinates rides for SAT, says the program has evolved since it was founded in 2005. While medical appointments take precedence, she notes, “We have learned that providing the variety of



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Jim and Jill Ellis.

rides we do improves the social, emotional, mental and physical health of our seniors.”

The SAT program provides alternative transportation for Orinda seniors who are no longer able to drive and who may not qualify for the County Connection LINK system. Orinda volunteer drivers, using their own personal vehicles, provide rides to doctor appointments, errands and social events in the Lamorinda, Berkeley and Walnut Creek areas and offer no cost door-to-door transportation to all eligible Orinda senior residents.

According to Goshorn, the group (with 115 riders and 68 drivers) has seen an increase of actual rides over this past year from 736 to 1,122. She adds, “Many of our senior riders have lived in Orinda for years and have donated their time and treasure to the community. It is nice to be able to give back to these seniors by providing rides for them.”

Goshorn declares that many volunteer

drivers notice working with the seniors has improved their own lives: “By listening to the stories of the seniors, they realize the seniors depend on them to improve the independence and quality of their lives.”

While the drivers encompass a variety of ages, from young parents to retired persons, several couples also enjoy volunteering.

“The holidays are a wonderful time for sharing at all levels. And to that end for us, we’ve always felt that one of the best gifts to receive is the ability to give back,” enthuses volunteer Jill Ellis. She affirms that when she and her husband Jim retired they wanted to find a way to support the Orinda community and found SAT “a perfect fit.” It helps us both fill our hearts, knowing that just a few hours of our time makes a big difference to someone else.”

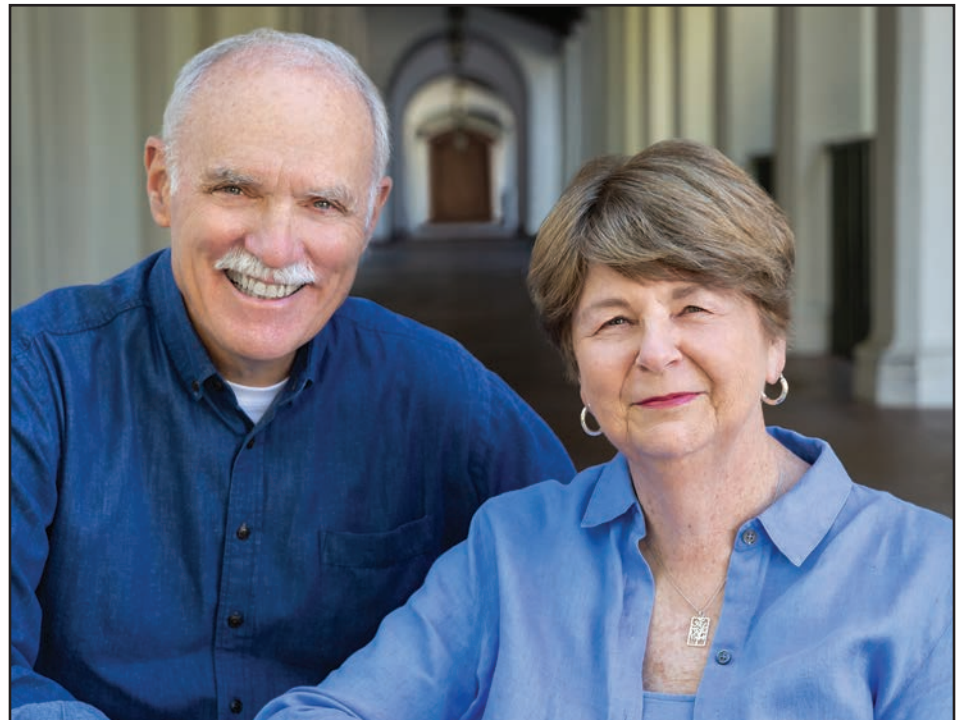
Often riders share stories of their childhood, jobs and decades spent in Orinda with the drivers. The volunteers notice a common emotion of gratitude from the seniors, who with support of SAT drivers, can remain independent.

Volunteer Karen Burt articulates that she and her husband Robert volunteer for SAT



SALLY HOGARTY

Janet and Tom Nelson.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Robert and Karen Burt.

because they want to help people: “We have enjoyed getting to know many of our riders. It is always special when they tell us about where they have lived previously and about their professional lives.”

Janet and Tom Nelson began volunteering a year ago. “We feel it is very important for everyone to give back to our commu-

nity,” Janet exclaims before adding that it is “a relatively easy way and rewarding way to contribute.” Most importantly, Nelson calls the seniors she drives “good examples for all of us.”

Like many others who volunteer with SAT, Jay and Charlie Wingo sought a way [SEE SAT page 10]

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Lamorinda Girls Are Crushing It!



SARAH DAVID

Entrepreneur **Maddie David** set up her Fizzy Fun Bath Time display at a "Girls Crushing It" pop-up shop in October.

By **SALLY HOGARTY**
Editor

What began as one event to showcase young female entrepreneurs has morphed into an Orinda nonprofit called Girls Crushing It.

The initial event Makers Market, which

took place in the spring at Wilder's Quarry House, featured young entrepreneurs aged 5 – 13 and tables laden with their handmade wares. The market was such a success (over 400 people attended during the two-hour event) that founder Roxanne Christophe started Girls Crushing It.

[SEE GIRLS page 14]

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Fitness Tip of the Month

Have More Fun....

The more fit you are the more fun you can have because what you are capable of changes. The scope continues to broaden as you reach new milestones until there is not much that you can't do..... numerical age becomes blurry and insignificant.



For more information, contact Sheena with Living Lean personal training and eating for elite fitness, at 925-360-7051 or www.livingleanprogram.com.

◆ SAT from page 9

to give back to the Orinda Community. Charlie sums up what the experience has meant: "We are aware that we are fortunate to live the life we live and wish to share our good fortune. This is a small way to achieve that goal. We get to interact with people who are invariably grateful for our efforts." She concludes, "We get much more from the SAT program than we give. It is a wonderful grass roots organization that deserves to be supported proudly by all in our area."

Marie and Bill Waterman, who have lived in Orinda for more than 30 years, have been a part of SAT for over eight years. Bill is



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Bill and Marie Waterman.

an attorney who serves on the Orinda Association board of directors, and Marie works at the Orinda Association. The pair find the life stories the seniors share with them inspiring. Marie recounts how the experience connects with her own feelings about family and helping elders in her own: "Growing up in suburban New York, I drove my immigrant grandfather to appointments when he voluntarily gave up driving. I loved doing it."

The volunteers agree that SAT asks very little of its volunteers while nevertheless impacting everyone involved tremendously. If Orindans are searching for the perfect gift for their community, contact SAT. Volunteer drivers are always needed.

Although the program depends on the generosity of its volunteer drivers, there are costs associated with administration. Individual donations, grants and fundraising to sustain and grow the program annually are always welcome. You may be paying it forward!

For more information, call (925)402-4506.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Jay and Charlie Wingo.

live better
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living lean.

by Sheena

What's More Effective for Fat Loss than Counting Calories? Not Counting Calories!

Simply reducing calories is

- Deprivational and makes us hungrier for more fattening foods later
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- Doesn't provide us with the lean protein we need to build muscle and keep our metabolism optimized
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SHOP LOCAL

Green, Local and Thrifty Holiday Shopping...with Facebook?

By MIMI BOMMARITO
Staff Writer

Looking to stretch your holiday dollars a little further this season? Or, perhaps you have a tween or teen hoping to find reasonably priced (think: allowance funded) holiday presents for friends and family. Or, maybe you have finally decided that with all the conflict currently existing in this great country of ours, you simply cannot take another angry weekend afternoon fighting for a parking place with all the other exasperated holiday power shoppers.



MIMI BOMMARITO

Orindan **Mindy Becker** preps a gently-worn top to be photographed for a post on Lamorinda Treasures.

Even with great parking garage karma, frugal gifters might be hard pressed to find much priced under \$20 at a retail establishment. And, on the flip side, as much as we all might need a fresh tube of ChapStick in December, it's not exactly considered an awe-inspiring gift. The perennial gifting dilemma.

Facebook to the rescue. Yes, you read that right. Meet my favorite online bargain paradise, which also happens to be local, a Facebook buy/sell/trade group known affectionately by its 3,742 members as Lamorinda Treasures.

If you do not have a Facebook account,

you will first need to set one up in order to join this group. Next, visit the Lamorinda Treasures Facebook page, found by searching "Groups," and click on the "Join" icon. There are no fees associated with membership, but a person must first be "approved" before they are able to shop, sell or conduct business. Two members, Shauna Gardner McGlynn and Sarah David, serve in a volunteer capacity as administrators. The admins review everyone's online request to join to make sure the individual is a legitimate member of the Orinda, Moraga or Lafayette community.

Lamorinda Treasures is basically a modern adaptation of a traditional garage sale or a "want ad." The advantage is that buying, trading or selling is taking place within a controlled group of neighbors, friends and "friends of friends" instead of wide-range casting to the general public. Since participants are not transacting physically face to face, a great deal of trust is placed in both buyer and seller. So, although it might be frustrating not to be able to join this group and start conducting business immediately, it is for one's own safety that each new member is vetted.

There is also a list of procedural guidelines, explanations and acronyms that new members must read and agree to before they are accepted into the group. Failure to abide by the rules can result in loss of membership. Admins monitor the posts and ensure the rules are being followed.

Once applicants have been approved, they are notified via Facebook, and then they may begin perusing the thousands of posts for items to purchase, or, if desired, listing their own items for sale. Each sale post is usually accompanied by photographs of the item(s) and as much detail as possible.

[SEE FACEBOOK page 16]

Handcrafted Holiday Gifts

If you're still looking for that special gift and want to support local artisans at the same time, check out the Hacienda Holiday Faire, 2100 Donald Drive in Moraga on Dec. 1 and 2 from 11 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Hand-crafted gifts, décor and specialty foods by over 45 local artisans will be displayed at the historic Hacienda de las Flores. For more information, email HaciendaHolidayFaire@gmail.com or go to <https://www.facebook.com/HaciendaHolidayFaire>.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Miniature wire bonsai trees (tallest is less than 4" tall) by **Jackie Smith** of A Cottage in the Forest will be available at the holiday faire.

Orinda's Brick and Mortar Consignment Stores

Cheryl's Closet at 21 Orinda Way (925-254-4442) and Rechic 101, consignment clothing and gift store, at 101 Orinda Way (925-317-3735) are additional local options for buying and selling gently worn clothing, shoes, accessories and handbags.

"We have holiday dresses, lots of cozy cashmere sweaters and fun tops and jeans," says Rechic owner Maureen Brown. "Our clothing is very gently used if worn at all. It's a great way to do the holidays on a budget." Rechic also has well-priced stationery, journals, candles, jewelry, plants and more for that thoughtful gift.

"When we can't re-sell, we can recycle," said Cheryl's Closet Manager Lisa Karp. To help customers support the environment by reducing landfill when closet cleaning, Cheryl's Closet participates in a recycling program for any type of overused clothing, bedding or towels. Mismatched socks, or damaged, dated or threadbare cloth items that will not pass charitable donation standards can all be recycled into new fabric. Bring any donations for recycling to Cheryl's Closet during operating hours, Tuesday-Saturday 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.



SALLY HOGARTY

Maureen Brown, owner of Rechic, displays one of the many dresses perfect for holiday get-togethers.

Hilton House, also at 21 Orinda Way (925-254-1113), buys and sells estate pieces such as jewelry, décor and furniture. A popular destination for over 17 years, the store has become a leader in offering top brands like Waterford, Ethan Allen, Restoration Hardware and one-of-a-kind treasures at reasonable prices.

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What's On Deck With Parks & Rec!

- Dec. 7 - Orinda Youth Sports (OYS) Winter Basketball Registration Closes**
- Dec. 7-9 - Orinda Ballet Academy Presents "A Sweet Dream Nutcracker" www.OrindaBalletAcademy.com**
- Dec. 14 - Orinda Teen Advisory Council (OTAC) Holiday Party, 4:00pm-9:30pm, Orinda Teen Center; all middle school students welcome!**
- Dec. 24 - City Offices Closed 12-5pm for Christmas Eve**
- Dec. 25 - City Offices Closed for Christmas**
- Dec. 26-28 - Wide Variety of Holiday Break Camps for Children - Carpentry, Comic Books, Cooking, Hip Hop Dance, Musical Theater, Tennis, Basketball - Sign-up Now!**



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www.OrindaParksandRec.org
OrindaParksandRec@CityOfOrinda.org
28 Orinda Way - Orinda Community Center
Administrative Office Hours - Monday - Friday 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Women of Spirit Welcomes Believers, Skeptics and the Curious

By MIMI BOMMARITO
Staff Writer

A Christian, a Mormon, a Muslim and a Jew decide to host a luncheon. Pause. If you are waiting for a great punch line, you won't find one. But if you are waiting for a great story line, read on.

Women of Spirit was co-founded by six Orinda women of differing faith backgrounds who were inspired to host monthly gatherings for inclusive, open-minded women seeking connection, shared learning and spiritual growth with other women of diverse faith traditions. The group, which held its first meeting in February 2018, is not affiliated with any religious institution and is open to anyone.

Women of Spirit grew out of a conversation between co-founder Stacy Crinks and Jim Brommers Bergquist, senior minister at Orinda Community Church. Crinks,

who considers herself deeply spiritual but has never fully committed to any one particular faith practice, had been searching for a local women's interfaith group that would celebrate "all that we have in common – values such as love, integrity, family, community and faith."

Bergquist connected Crinks with co-founders Leslie Darwin O'Brien, Betsy Shandalov and Julia Shepard Stenzel, who have led women's spirituality groups. Bushra Gill and Carrielyn Guymon soon joined the leadership committee responsible for planning and implementing the monthly gatherings. Together, these six women and their network of friends successfully established Women of Spirit, with a goal of expanding and attracting more women each month.

The gatherings, which, to date, have been held in the community meeting rooms at various places of worship in the Lamorinda

[SEE SPIRIT page 13]



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Women of Spirit co-founders (L-R) Julia Shepard Stenzel, Carrielyn Guymon, Leslie O'Brien, Stacy Crinks, Betsy Shandalov and Bushra Gill.



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Sleepy Hollow Goes to the Dogs

By BOBBIE DODSON
Staff Writer

It's a December tradition. The 18th Annual Sleepy Hollow Holiday Walk will take place Saturday, Dec. 8 at 9 a.m. Participants and their four-legged friends should congregate at the driveway on 76 Tarry Lane.

Kaye Chavalas, one of the hosts, says, "It's a casual and festive gathering of neighbors, friends, families and dogs for a 1-1/2 mile walk around the Sleepy Hollow neighborhood."

"Santa Claus will be attending and available for photos with families and their pets, but you need to bring your own camera," she continues. "Also, Chief Nagel and other officers from the Orinda Police Department will attend so we can thank them for their service throughout the year. Thanks also to The Orinda Association for providing us with tents." Hosting along with Chavalas will be Pam and Gary Schroeder.

Comments from last year's event come from several residents. Tracy Gittings says, "On behalf of all the happy dogs, thank you, Kay, Pam and Gary for hosting another fabulous holiday walk." While Dena Raffel adds, "Thank you for hosting. It was great to see so many neighbors and dogs. Lolly was especially happy with the ice cream pup treat!"

On a more somber note, Catherine Farrell



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Orinda Police Chief Mark Nagel and State Senator Steve Glazer visit with Santa Claus at last year's Sleepy Hollow Holiday Walk. This year's walk takes place on Dec. 8.

wrote Chavalas saying, "I wanted to let you know that our Farley passed away this June. I know you know how important she was in our lives and we miss her terribly. Thank you for making her the Grand Marshall one year. She loved the attention. We always met such wonderful dogs and their loving masters on the annual walk. Thank you for all you've done over these many years for our neighborhood and four-footed friends."

There will be refreshments and holiday cheer provided before and after the walk.

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STUDENTS

OIS's Bulldog Theater presents *The Addams Family Young@Part* Musical

By JEANETTE LIPP
Contributing Writer

The beloved and kooky Addams Family comes to life in this delightful musical comedy. The Addamses have lived by their unique values for hundreds of years, and Gomez and Morticia, the patriarch and matriarch of the clan, would be only too happy to continue living that way. But Wednesday Addams, who is now 18 years old, has fallen in love with Lucas Beineke, a sweet, smart boy from a normal, respectable family – the most un-Addams sounding person one could be. And worse, she has invited the Beinekes to their home for

dinner. In one fateful, hilarious night, secrets are disclosed, relationships are tested, and the Addams family must face up to the one horrible thing they've managed to avoid for generations: change!

There are three casts, comprised of approximately 80 OIS students along with an additional 22 OIS students serving on tech crew. Performances will run Dec. 6 – 8 at the OIS Bulldog Theater. The performance lasts approximately 90 minutes, with one intermission. For show time information and to purchase tickets, visit www.showtix4u.com. Tickets are also available at the OIS Theater one half hour prior to show times.



JEANETTE LIPP

The "Zombie" cast and crew of OIS's *The Addams Family: Young@Part* pictured above are preparing to bring the musical comedy to the Bulldog stage on Dec. 6 - 8. Two other casts will also be performing with the support of student tech crews.

◆ SPIRIT from page 12

area, have been attended by 35-65 women each month. Given the current climate of mounting uncertainty and traumatic events, the group considers itself in a timely and solid growth mode. Crinks even has plans to develop a "kit" for other women interested in taking this concept to their own community. "It's interesting," Crinks observes, "how we have had roughly the same number of women at our gatherings, but they are not always the same women. Word is spreading." Crinks adds that participation can be as much or as little as one desires, and no attendance commitment is required.

Gatherings consist of a half hour of social time, usually with an informal meal, snack or dessert, followed by speakers, small-group discussions at tables, and wrapping up with a closing circle. "The atmosphere is warm, welcoming and real," says co-founder Leslie O'Brien. "One participant shared with me, 'I have lived in Orinda for five years, and this is the deepest conversation I've had since we moved here. I am so grateful for this group.'"

A faith history is not required in this no-judgement zone. "We had one guest who stated she was agnostic. 'My religion is my garden,' she said. And that is awesome," Crinks exclaims.

Color coded name tags attempt to "mix-up" the luncheon table seating arrangements so that fresh conversations emerge and new, multi-generational friendships are forged. "We do have to stick to a schedule,"

Crinks notes, "or else we could literally wind up talking and sharing all day!"

Stenzel seconds the concept of sticking to a timetable and an organized format: "The big value here is the intensity of the conversations. With our thoughtfully planned table topics, we jump right in. We don't have to spend a lot of time making small talk."

O'Brien adds, "Our objective is to move beyond 'coexistence' to deep appreciation, respect and love. While we realize that our faith journeys may be very different, or even non-existent, we all want to feel a part of something greater."

Both lunchtime and evening gatherings are scheduled to accommodate a variety of schedules. Upcoming meetings:

Tuesday, Nov. 27, 7-9 p.m. at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, 3776 Via Granada, Moraga.

Friday, Jan. 25, noon – 2 p.m. at the Orinda Community Church, 10 Irwin Way, Orinda.

Any and all interested women can learn more about this group and sign up to receive invites to future gatherings via three different avenues. Visit the group's website: womenofspiritlamorinda.org or visit its Facebook page, Women of Spirit Lamorinda or e-mail info@womenofspiritlamorinda.org.

"And did we mention chocolate?" Crinks asks gleefully. Here, the founders confirm, one will never find judgement, but one will always find plenty of acceptance and chocolate. "Be sure to mention the chocolate," she concludes.

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Orinda Junior Women's Club Announces Youth Ink

◆ GIRLS from page 10

By ANGELA WOODARD NARAYANI
Contributing Writer

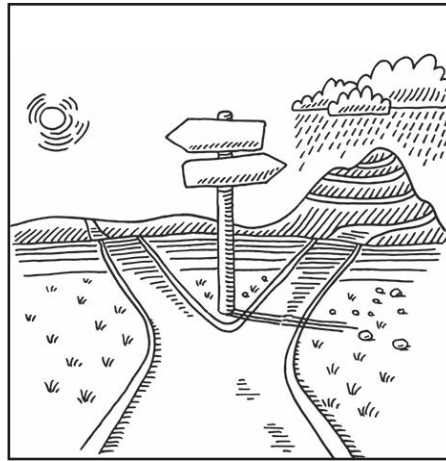
The Orinda Junior Women's Club (Orinda Juniors) is delighted to announce details for Youth Ink 2019, the annual creative writing contest open to all sixth-, seventh- and eighth-grade students who live in or attend school in Orinda. This

year's prompt is "It Matters," a theme that provides young writers with a general purpose, while offering boundless opportunity to personalize a writing creation based upon its conceptual notion. There is no limit to the imagination, and entrants do not have to adhere to the prompt. The goal is for students to have fun and enjoy the creative writing process.

Entrants have the opportunity to win impressive prizes of \$250 for first place, \$125 for second place, \$75 for third place and gift certificates for 10 honorable mentions. A panel of area writers, including professional reporters and best-selling novelists, will serve as contest judges to evaluate submissions and select this year's winners. Awards will be presented at a ceremony in late April in Orinda. The public is welcome to attend.

Youth Ink 2019 submissions will be accepted via email from Dec. 3, 2018 until Feb. 15, 2019 in order to be considered for an award. Full entry details are on the submission forms, available through Orinda Intermediate School and several local private middle schools, the Orinda Public Library, and online at www.orindajuniors.org.

Orinda Juniors, a local nonprofit service organization, supports a variety of organi-



GRAPHIC BY FRANK RAMSPOTT

The prompt for Youth Ink 2019, "It Matters," gives young writers the chance to explore the different paths one can take and the opportunities to make an impact.

zations in the greater East Bay, including the Orinda Senior Village, STAND! Against Domestic Violence, the Oakland Children's Hospital Family House, Bay Area Crisis Nursery, Habitat and others. Those interested in becoming an Orinda Juniors member or donating to the nonprofit to benefit its many ongoing service initiatives, can email info@orindajuniors.org.

"We're on a mission to empower girls to flex their leadership muscles through entrepreneurship and to date, we've trained 150 girls ranging in age from 6 to 15," says Christophe. "We help them with the fundamentals of running a business, product development and on developing and delivering their business pitch."

The "girlpreneurs" of Girls Crushing It will put their newly acquired skills into action at a pop-up shop on Dec. 9 from 2 – 5 p.m. at the Lafayette Community Center, 500 St. Mary's Rd., in Lafayette. Orinda Mayor Amy Worth will be a special guest at the event.

"The young girls who took part in the Makers Market are truly inspiring. Their creativity and sheer enthusiasm for the entrepreneurial process is such a joy to see," says Worth. "I'm delighted the winter pop-up shop brings them back, and I can't wait to shop their adorable items and continue my support of this wonderful local event."

The girl-owned businesses at the Dec. 9 event will include such products as all-natural bath items, dog treats, hand-made jewelry and magic wands. For more information, go to www.GirlsCrushingIt.org.

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SCHOOL CALENDAR

DECEMBER

- 1 **Glorietta Elementary School**, 4:35-5:30 p.m. Ensemble Hospice Tree Lighting concert near the Orinda Bank of America, 31 Orinda Way
- Miramonte High School**, 7 p.m. Winter Ball.
- 3 **Miramonte High School**, 6 p.m. Sports Boosters' meeting
- Wagner Ranch Elementary School**, Food Drive begins.
- 4 **Holden High School**, 6 p.m. Information Session.
- 6 **Orinda Intermediate School**, 4:30 and 7:30 p.m. OIS Bulldog Theater presents *The Addams Family Young@Part*. Also, Dec. 7, 4:30 and 7:30 p.m. and Dec. 8, 2 and 5 p.m. For tickets, visit www.showtix4u.com.
- 7 **Orinda Academy**, 7:30 p.m. Music Concert.
- 10 **Orinda Union School District** Board Meeting.
- 12 **Miramonte High School**, 9:30 a.m. Parents Club meeting.
- Acalanes Union High School District** 7 p.m. governing board meeting.
- Miramonte High School**, 7 p.m. Winter Choral Concert
- 13 **Wagner Ranch Elementary School**. 8:15 Coffee Meetings with Orinda School Board Members.
- 17 **Holden High School**, no school through Jan. 7. Winter break.
- Sleepy Hollow Elementary School**, 9 a.m. Parents' Club general meeting.
- 18 **Orinda Academy**, No school, Teacher work day.
- 19 **Wagner Ranch Elementary School**, Winter Vocal Concert.
- 20 **Glorietta Elementary School**, Coordinating Council Meetings.
- Miramonte High School**, 7 p.m. Winter Band Concert
- 21 **Del Rey Elementary School**, minimum day.
- Del Rey Elementary School**, Winter Sing.
- Miramonte High School**, minimum day.
- Orinda Academy**, no school through Jan. 4. Winter break.
- Sleepy Hollow Elementary School**, minimum day.
- 24 **Del Rey Elementary School**, no school through Jan. 4. Winter break.
- Glorietta Elementary School**, no school through Jan. 4. Winter break.
- Miramonte High School**, no school through Jan. 4. Winter break.
- Orinda Intermediate School**, no school through Jan. 4. Winter break.
- Sleepy Hollow Elementary School**, no school through Jan. 4. Winter break.
- Wagner Ranch Elementary School**, no school through Jan. 4. Winter break.

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

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FILM

Three's Company Christmas Parody Comes to the Rheem Theatre



SALLY HOGARTY

(Standing) **Lance Mack** and **Patti Leidecker** (Mr. and Mrs. Roper); (seated) **Derek Zemrak** (Jack), **Nicole Berzins** (Chrissy) and **Suzie Mele** (Janet) will perform a parody of the popular TV Show *Three's Company*.

By SALLY HOGARTY
Editor

The Rheem Theatre has come back to life just in time for the holidays. Not only is the classic venue once again offering first run movies, it will now add a live parody of the popular sitcom *Three's Company*, in what the management hopes will be the first of many live theater productions and events.

The Rheem Theater, which along with the Orinda Theatre forms Lamorinda Theatres, has joined with the nonprofit Classic TV Preservation Society (CTVPS) to bring these events to the Moraga venue. The first will be *A Three's Company Christmas Parody* on Saturday, Dec. 8 and Sunday, Dec. 9.

"We're thrilled to team with The Classic TV Preservation Society," says producer/co-director Derek Zemrak. Adds CTVPS founder Herbie J Pilato, "It's an honor to work with such a prestigious establishment as the Rheem Theatre, while also being

granted the opportunity to combine classic TV and live theatre in such a unique way."

Zemrak and Pilato envision an eclectic list of classic TV events and productions for the Rheem Theatre, including special screenings of classic TV shows, personal appearances by classic TV celebrities, and more. "Classic TV has never been more popular than it is today," says Zemrak, "and to be able to connect with the CTVPS and celebrate it all in a positive way is exciting."

Zemrak adds, "Most baby boomers remember the classic television show *Three's Company*, and I thought it would be fun to bring it to the stage. The evening will include a video presentation on the late 1970s, and a live stage performance complete with '70's and '80's TV commercials. After the production, the audience can join the cast for a meet and greet, holiday cookies and eggnog."

Three's Company aired for eight seasons on ABC, from March 15, 1977 to Sept. 18, 1984. Based on the British sitcom

[SEE RHEEM page 19]

Classic Film Series Returns to the New Rheem Theatre

By SALLY HOGARTY
Editor


By popular demand, Rheem Theatre operator Derek Zemrak has reinstated the popular "Classic Film Series." The showings will be on the second Wednesday of every month starting in January 2019, in the small upstairs theater at the Rheem Theatre.

"This is the perfect venue for classic, older films," says Zemrak. "Showtimes will be at 4 p.m., offering the viewing

audience an opportunity to see a film and perhaps enjoy an early dinner at a nearby restaurant."


Starting off the New Year on a hopeful note, the first film is *A Star is Born*, which will be shown on Jan. 9 and stars Janet Gaynor and Frederic March. On Feb. 13, Frank Sinatra stars in *The Man with the Golden Arm* and on March 13, Orson Wells stars in *The Third Man*.

For more information, go to www.lamorindatheatres.com.



THE REEL LESS TRAVELED

THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT?



Tom Westlake

Irreverence prevails in this year's last column. In it, you will *not* find heartwarming films highlighted that tell tales of errant misers learning about the errors of their ways, nor will you be taken to the colder extremities of this planet to watch tales of "that jolly old elf" and his annual journey around the globe. Absent, too, will be any of the mythos so prevalent during this time of year: No Jack Skellingtons, Grinches, aerodynamic reindeer or talking and/or singing and/or dancing snowmen. Many of you, doubtless like this Humbug, consider avoiding such things. To you, then, what follows might just come as a welcome relief from this most sugar-coated of holidays.

We'll lead off with something for which there is not really that much information available at press time, but for which our overarching theme of this month noted above was seemingly made: The Holiday Psychotronix Film Festival. (see <http://lamorindatheatres.com/2813/EVENTS>) Now to anyone unfamiliar with the word, Psychotronix refers to that genre (and I use that term very loosely) of film that has, to put it gently, aged so poorly as to become parody.

Films like "*Reefer Madness*" or "*The Incredibly Strange Creatures Who Stopped*

Living and Became Mixed-Up Zombies" (This is actually the title of the movie! It was made in 1964. Look it up if you don't believe me.) provide two prime examples. It is important to point out, though, that this type of "aberration" is not limited to full length movies. It can also include commercials, educational films and even some television shows. Most of them are in the

[SEE REEL page 16]

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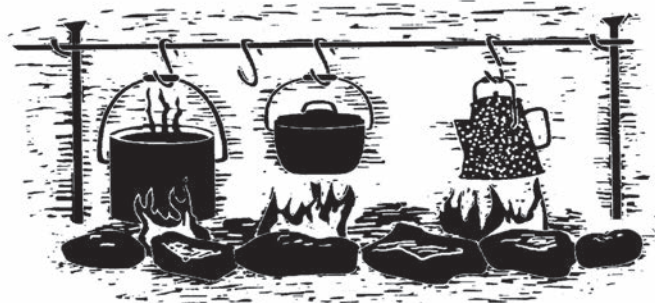
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CLASSIFIEDS

◆ FACEBOOK from page 11

Buyers scroll through the many items available much like one would scroll through their news feed. If the potential buyer sees something to purchase, he or she would type the word "interested" in the "Comments" section.

It is never advised to give out personal email or cell phone numbers. All communication can and should be done through Facebook or Messenger.

Many times, a seller will notice that a potential buyer shares a few acquaintances, as the app will list the Facebook friends that both buyer and seller have in common.

around for the buyer to pick up the item. In turn, buyers are expected to pick up their item in a timely fashion.

Unlike at a traditional garage sale, price haggling is frowned upon. The price listed is the final price. Quick and easy is the name of the game.

In turn, the sellers understand that this enterprise is not created to financially gouge people and make huge profits which encourages sellers to price items fairly, with a garage sale mind-set.

The buyer, arriving at the seller's home to pick up the purchase off the porch, can either leave cash under the doormat or, for larger amounts of money, Venmo, a digital way to make payments.

Buyers always have the option to change

their mind if they no longer wish to purchase, but they are expected to notify the seller immediately by typing "pass" in the "Comments" section.

It is also not customary to ask for "returns" if the shoes end up pinching in the wrong places.

Shopping Lamorinda Treasures, or similar online buy/sell/trade groups such as Lamorinda Buy/Sell/Trade, Walnut Creek Treasures, Walnut Creek Buy/Sell/Trade, and Facebook Marketplace are wonderful ways to pick up all sorts of potential holiday gifts for a song.

The list is endless and has this mother of three grown daughters wishing it had been around when her kids were tots and her house was crammed full of costly and quickly-outgrown baby gear.

Lamorinda Treasures is also a great way for tweens and teens to clean out their closets, sell the items (with parental oversight) and earn some holiday spending money.

Your gifts might not come pre-packaged in a fancy box, but the lack of all the excess consumer packaging is great for our environment.

◆ REEL from page 15

16 mm format and need to be seen to be believed. Since it's December, you can bet that the holidays will play a major part in this program, though with festivals like this, unpredictability is the only constant.

On a slightly more conventional (and classical) note, the Rheem will show The Three Tenors Christmas. There are many ways to get into the Christmas spirit, but it's hard to imagine one more joyous than to have Luciano Pavarotti, Placido Domingo and Jose Carreras serenade you for 90 minutes or so.

certainty that this concert will play on your emotions in much the same way a well-constructed screenplay would.

Next, the Orinda Theatre is presenting a Christmas movie that holds a special place in the hearts of many, mostly because it doesn't pander or cloy like so many Christmas movies.

takes place in 1940) and the desires and awkwardness that always happen during this time of year can easily be transposed into our own lives.

Finally, we have the International Film Showcase, which usually doesn't show films during this time due to all of the mainstream films that come out.

Paraguay is this film's country of origin, and there's much about this movie that, on the surface (at least if you go by the trailer), is deceptive, including the title.

So now, all that's left is to mark your calendars and start with the decorating. For good or ill, the season is upon us, and though many might chose to ignore it, I, for one, would like to extend all the best to you and yours.

...classified ads

Help Wanted

Get first look at incoming library book donations. Sort books with Friends on Wednesdays, 10 a.m. - noon. Call Friends of the Library, 254-1358.

Household Service

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Professional Services

Spousal Grief Support Group in Orinda Contact: Elizabeth Rae Walker, MFT 31203 at 510-325-6060.

Services

Christmas Light Hanging. Put up indoor and outdoor. Orinda resident Charles 925-254-5533.

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

Wanted

I buy 1950's Furniture. Danish modern, Herman Miller, Knoll wanted. 1 item or entire estate! Call Rick at 510-219-9644. Courteous house calls.

The Senior Bridge Group is looking for players! Games take place on Thursday afternoons in the Community Center. Call Gretchen Dabel for details at 925-254-5532.

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

2018 Publication Schedule Orinda News classified ads ... Your ad in The Orinda News reaches 9,000 households and businesses in Orinda! Ad rates are \$5 per line - \$10 minimum. Categories: For Sale, Help Wanted, Household Services, Instruction, Pets, Pet Care, Rentals, Services, Vacation Rentals/Home Exchanges, Wanted. Write your ad in the boxes below with one letter, space or punctuation mark in each box. Cost is \$5 per line: \$10 minimum.

CALENDAR

ON THE CALENDAR

DECEMBER

- 1 **2018 Hacienda Holiday Faire**, 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. Handcrafted holiday gifts from local artisans. Complimentary wine tasting with Captain Vineyards. A fundraiser for The Hacienda Foundation. HaciendaHolidayFaire@gmail.com, www.facebook.com/HaciendaHolidayFaire.
- Hospice Tree of Lights**, 4:30 p.m. in front of Bank of America, 31 Orinda Way in the Orinda Village. For information go to www.hospiceeastbay.org. See article p. 18.
- Orinda Books**, 7 p.m. Adam Plantinga will introduce, discuss, and sign copies of his new book *Police Craft: What Cops Know about Crime, Community, and Violence*.*
- Orinda Books**. View guest artist Lisa Gunn's abstract paintings during the month of December. *
- Orinda Theatre**, Holiday Psychotronic Film Festival, Rheem Theatre, lamorindatheatres.com. See article p. 15.
- 2 **Art Gallery at the Orinda Library**, 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. Meet the artists at their reception. Light refreshments will be served. View paintings by Lynette Ley, Rita Sklar, Joel Tesch, and pottery by Terry Mar through December. See article p. 2.
- 6 **Orinda Books**, 10 - 11 a.m. Story Time with Cathy G. Join Cathy for a lively hour of books and fun for kids of all ages. Also, Dec. 13 and 20.*
- Taste of the World Market**, 5 p.m. Weekly food truck event features a different mix of trucks and entertainment. To see which food trucks will be present, visit www.tasteoftheworldmarket.com/calendar-agenda-style. Also, Dec. 13, 20 and 27.
- Orinda Chamber of Commerce**, 5 p.m. Holiday Party, Hilton House, 21 Orinda Way.
- 7 **Orinda Books**, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Gerry Wallace, Paul Kratter & Tia Kratter - Holiday Exhibition and Sale- Ceramics, Painting, Prints.*
- 8 **Orinda Theatre**, 6 and 8 p.m. *Three's Company Christmas Parody*, Rheem Theatre, lamorindatheatres.com. Also, Dec. 9, 2 p.m. See article p. 15.
- 9 **Mindful Littles**, 3 p.m. Holiday Toy Drive for White Pony Express for low-income families in Contra Costa. We will also be accepting donations of gently-used toys. www.flipcause.com/secure/cause_pdetails/NDMwNTA=.
- 10 **Orinda Books**, 10:30 a.m. The Poetry Circle will meet and discuss *Flyover Country* by Austin Smith. They meet monthly at Orinda Books and welcome anyone interested in poetry.*
- 11 **Mindful Littles**, noon. Holiday Cheer for Seniors Around Town. Seniors Around Town is having a holiday party. Littles will get to walk around and pass out candy to seniors. Baskets and candy will be provided by Seniors Around Town. Littles will also get sandwiches and snacks. www.flipcause.com/secure/cause_pdetails/NDM2Njk=.
- 13 **Orinda Theatre**, 6:30 p.m. Free Movie Night presents *A Christmas Story*, Orinda Theatre, lamorindatheatres.com. Also, Dec. 9, 2 p.m.
- Orinda Books**, 7 p.m. Poetry reading: The following six contributors to Fire and Rain: Ecopoetry of California, Elaine Miller Bond, Rachel Dacus, Carol Dorf, Gail Rudd Entekin, Rafael Jesus Gonzalez, and Cynthia Leslie-Bole will read their work. *
- 14 **Peter Pan Foundation**, 7 p.m. presents *Into The Woods*, also Dec. 15 (10 a.m., 2 and 7 p.m.) and Dec. 16 (2 p.m.) at Northgate High School Theatre, 425 Castle Rock Rd., in Walnut Creek. Go to www.peterpanfoundation.org/calendar. See article p. 17.
- International Film Showcase**, presents *The Gold Seekers (Los Buscadores)*. Go to <http://internationalshowcase.org/?p=789> for tickets and times. Rheem Theatre through Dec. 20. See article p. 15.
- 16 **Mindful Littles**, 3 p.m. Mindful Meals for the Homeless. Partnering with some local chefs for our Cookin' for a Cause program helping Operation Dignity. We will make dinner at a local Orinda kitchen then deliver the meal to Operation Dignity. www.flipcause.com/secure/cause_pdetails/NDEwMjA=.
- Orinda Theatre**, 7:30 p.m. Live at Orinda presents Broadway and Cabaret star Karen Mason in concert. Tickets are \$55-75 and can be purchased at lamorindatheatres.com.
- 19 **Orinda Books**, noon. The Random Readers will read and discuss *The Italian Teacher* by Tom Rachman. They meet on the 4th Wednesday of each month at Orinda Books and welcome new members. (Note change of date in December.)*

* **Orinda Books** is located at 276 Village Square, Orinda, info@orindabooks.com, 925-254-7606.

AT THE LIBRARY

All events are free unless otherwise specified. For more information, call 925-254-2184 or visit www.cclib.org/locations/Orinda.html. The Library will be closed on Monday, Dec. 24 and Tuesday, Dec. 25. It will close at 5 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 31.

- 3 **Maker Monday**, 2:30 - 3:30. Hour of Code. Join the worldwide celebration of computer coding! Best for ages 7 and up.
- 4 **Toddler Stay & Play**, 10 - 11 a.m. Enjoy gentle play in the Gallery Room. Geared for 1 to 3 year olds. Also Dec. 5.
- Baby Stay & Play**, 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Pre-walking babies can enjoy gentle play in the Gallery Room. Also Dec. 5.
- 5 **Floral Design for Everyday and the Holidays**, 1 - 2 p.m. in Garden Room. Two expert floral designers will show you how to bring your arrangements to the next level. Sponsored by the Friends of the Orinda Library.
- 6 **Computer Help**, 1 - 2 p.m. or 2 - 3 p.m. Receive help on computer matters from a knowledgeable volunteer. Registration required. Focus on beginning users. Please sign up online for a one-hour session or call 925-254-2184. Also on Dec. 13, 20.
- ESL Conversation Group**, 1- 2:30 p.m. Local volunteer ESL teachers lead group discussions with ESL learners. Free and open to all. Come talk and learn English with us! Also on Dec. 13, 20.
- 10 **Maker Monday** 2:30 - 3:30. Holiday Candles. Make a wax candle to light up the winter night. Suitable for elementary school-aged children. Generously sponsored by the Friends of the Orinda Library.
- 11 **Fratello Marionettes**, 10:30 - 11 a.m. in the Garden Room. This popular troupe will present their "North Pole Revue" suitable for all ages. Generously sponsored by the Friends of the Orinda Library.
- 12 **Drum Program for Young Children**, 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. The Malicounda Dance Company will introduce West African culture through songs, dance and games. Geared for toddlers and preschoolers, but all ages are welcome. Generously sponsored by the Friends of the Orinda Library.
- 17 **Maker Monday**, 2:30 - 3:30. Minecraft. Explore and build in this popular online world. Suitable for ages 7 and up.
- 18 **All Abilities Playgroup**, 10 - 11 a.m. Chit Chat Preschool will answer your child develop-

ment questions while infants through three year-olds enjoy playtime. Sponsored by the Friends of the Orinda Library.

- 19 **Yoga Dance Party**, 10 - 11 a.m. Bend, stretch, dance, and listen to stories with Mr. Jeff. For greater comfort, bring a yoga mat or towel.
- 21 **Mystery Book Club**, 3 - 4:30 p.m. Uncover and discuss this month's title. Interested mystery-lovers always welcome.
- 26 **Toddler Dance Party**, 10 - 11 a.m. Unwind from the holidays with some festive tunes.
- 31 **Noon Year's Eve**, 11 a.m. - noon. For those unable to stay up until midnight, come celebrate early with a craft and dancing! Sponsored by the Friends of the Orinda Library.
- Maker Monday**, 2:30 - 3:30 p.m. Make a craft to celebrate New Year's Eve! Generously sponsored by the Friends of the Library.

CLUB MEETINGS

- American Association of University Women (AAUW)**. General meetings third Tues., <http://oml-ca.aauw.net> or email Marty Schimbor at mgschimbor@comcast.net. Orinda Community Church, 10 Irwin Way.
- Diablo Star Chapter #214**, Order of the Eastern Star. Second Monday, 7:30 p.m. 9 Altarinda Road, Orinda Masonic Center, Karen Seaborn, 925-689-0995.
- Friends of the Joaquin Moraga Adobe**. Third Monday, 7:30 p.m., Garden Room, Orinda Library, www.moragaadobe.org.
- Friends of the Orinda Creeks**. Fourth Wednesday, 5 p.m., May Room, Orinda Library, 510-919-4765.
- Guided Meditation**. Wednesdays, 9 a.m. St. Mark's United Methodist Church, 451 Moraga Way, Orinda, focuses on health, harmony and wholeness, 925-254-5965.
- Lamorinda Alcohol Policy Coalition**. Third Wednesday, 10 a.m., Orinda City Hall Sarge Littlehale Room, 925-687-8844, ext. 227.
- Lamorinda Meditation Community**. Mondays and Thursdays, 10:30 a.m., Career Wisdom's Institute, 1036 Country Club Drive, Moraga. All levels and philosophies welcome! \$5 donation for the use of our beautiful space. Contact Gaby for more details: gcmoze@gmail.com.
- Lamorinda Nature Walk and Bird Watching** for seniors. Wednesdays, 9 a.m., free. Call 925-254-2445 for weekly meeting place.
- Lamorinda Republican Women Federated**. Third Thursday every month. For more information www.facebook.com/Lamorinda-Republican-Women-Federated-136134033113066 or www.lamorindarepublicanwomen.org. Contact Elsie Euing at ejueing@comcast.net or 925-254-8614.
- Lamorinda Sirs** for retired men. Second Wednesday, 11 a.m. Holy Trinity Cultural Center, 1700 School St., Moraga, Pete Giers, 925-254-4667.
- Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary**. Breakfast, Fridays, 7 a.m. at The Lafayette Park Hotel & Spa, 328 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette, www.lamorindasunrise.com or lamorindasunrise@gmail.com. Dec. 7: Dr. Lorraine Granit, Loving acts of kindness and the White Pony Express; Dec. 7: 4-6:30 p.m. raffle drawing for the "Luv Bug" at the Holiday Celebration. Lafayette's Plaza Park, Downtown Lafayette; Dec. 14: Mark DeSaulnier U.S. House of Representatives Congressman serving our district.
- Lamorinda Toastmasters**. Every Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., Temple Isaiah, 945 Risa Road, Lafayette. <http://lamorinda.toastmastersclubs.org>.
- Meditative Gentle Yoga**. Mondays and Thursdays, 9 a.m. at St. Mark's United Methodist Church, 451 Moraga Way. All levels are welcome! Also Tuesday and Friday 6 p.m. \$5 donation. For more details, contact gcmoze@gmail.com.
- Montelindo Garden Club** Third Friday, 9:30 a.m., September through May. The Lafayette Library and Learning Center, Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. www.montelindogarden.com.
- Orinda Association**. Second Monday, 7 p.m., Orinda Library, May Room, 925-254-0800.
- Orinda Garden Club**, 315 Camino Sobrante, Orinda 925-257-0668, www.orindagc.org.
- Orinda Hiking Club**. Every weekend and first Wednesday, www.orindahiking.org or Ian at 925-254-1465.
- Orinda Historical Society**. Call 925-254-1353 for times and location of meetings. Holiday Dinner on Dec. 5, 6 p.m. at the Orinda Community Church. The event includes a talk from a PG&E representative speaking about their efforts in conservation.
- Orinda Job's Daughters**. First and third Monday, 7 p.m., 9 Altarinda Road, 925-283-7176.
- Orinda Junior Women's Club** Community service group. First Tuesday, September through June, 7 p.m., www.orindajuniors.org.
- Orinda Masonic Lodge #122 F&AM**. First Thursday every month, except holidays. Family Dinner at 6:30 p.m., meeting at 8 p.m., at 9 Altarinda Road, Orinda Masonic Center. 925-254-5211, www.orindalodge.org.
- Orinda Rotary**. Every Wednesday, noon, Orinda Community Center, 28 Orinda Way, 925-254-2222, www.orindarotary.org.
- Orinda Satellite Rotary Club**. Second Wed. of month. Call Sylvia at 510-224-8548.
- Orinda/Tabor (Czech Republic) Sister City Foundation**. Fourth Thursday, 7 p.m., social, 7:30 p.m., meeting. For more information 925-254-8260.
- Orinda Teen Advisory Council**. Second Wednesday, 4 p.m., Community Center, 28 Orinda Way, email orindateenadvisorycouncil@gmail.com.
- Orinda Woman's Club**. Second Tuesday, 9:30 a.m., call Jean Barnhart, 925-254-3881, or www.orindawomansclub.org.
- Sons in Retirement Lamorinda Branch 174**. Second Wednesday, 11 a.m. lunch. Holy Trinity Culture Center 1700 School Street, Moraga. We are a social organization of retired and semi-retired men who enjoy our leisure time with friends and activities. Dec. 12, Ladies Day Holiday Luncheon at 11 a.m., St. Mary's Soda Center with branch 171. For info, call Tyler at 925-963-5741, www.branch174.sirinc2.org.

CITY/FIRE/MEETING SCHEDULE

- City Council**. First and third Tuesdays, 7 p.m., Library Auditorium, www.cityoforinda.org.
- Historic Landmarks Committee**. Fourth Tuesday, 3 - 5 p.m., Library Garden Room. Call 925-788-7323.
- Moraga-Orinda Fire District**. First and third Wednesday of the month, 7 p.m. Visit www.mofd.org/board/meetings; meeting location will be posted on the agenda.
- Planning Commission**. Second and fourth Tuesdays, 7 p.m., Orinda Library Auditorium, www.cityoforinda.org.

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

PETER PAN FOUNDATION / FESTIVAL OF TREES

Peter Pan Foundation Plans Busy Holiday Season

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Fri-Sat 11a - 9:30p
Sundays 11a - 8:30p

The Peter Pan Foundation started as an organization that inspired children of all ages to be creative and give back while producing several big stage musicals a



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Artistic Director **Leslie Noel** with a child at UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital in Oakland.

year. Since adding a performance troupe and partnering with local charitable organizations, PPF is now involved in non-stop community service. Any given month, they will be performing at an average of eight to 10 events, as varied as St. Baldrick's Brave the Shave at UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital in Oakland, participating in the Dance for Kindness event, and helping at local food banks.

"These events are instilling a sense of self, as well as a desire to be selfless," explained Leslie Noel, founder and artistic director for the PPF. "Our participants see first-hand how capable they are – how capable we all are – of making positive changes in the world. PPF is providing a safe space for them to grow, feel confident that they have much to give others and then to use their gifts to spread love and light. It is a beautiful and humbling thing to be a part of."

PPF, who moves into its new home in Lafayette on Jan. 1, holds its annual gala on Dec. 7 at 6 p.m. and presents its winter musical, *Into The Woods*, Dec. 14 (7 p.m.); Dec. 15 (10 a.m., 2 and 7 p.m.) and Dec. 16 (2 p.m.). This award-winning show is a modern twist on the beloved Brothers Grimm fairy tales in a musical format that follows the classic tales of Cinderella, Little Red Riding Hood, Jack and the Beanstalk, and Rapunzel, all tied together by an original story involving a baker and his

wife, their wish to begin a family and their interaction with the witch who has put a curse on them. Performances will be held at Northgate High School Theatre, 425 Castle Rock Rd., in Walnut Creek.

For more information, go to www.peterpanfoundation.org/calendar.

– Sally Hogarty, Editor

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◆ **BAUER-KAHAN** from page 5

Bauer-Kahan is an attorney, community activist and mother who lives with her husband Darren and three children in Orinda. She first announced her plans to run for State Assembly in September 2017 and was endorsed by the Sierra Club, Planned Parenthood and Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense.

Speaking about her win, Bauer-Kahan states, "I am truly honored and humbled that the voters of Assembly District 16 have selected me to represent them in Sacramento. I am ready to roll up my sleeves and get to work for them and the issues important to our community."

Members of the State Assembly will be sworn in on Monday, Dec. 3 and the new legislature will be in session starting Jan. 7, 2019.

32nd Anniversary of Festival of Trees

SALLY HOGARTY
Local Realtor **Patti Camras** once again rocked the Festival of Trees fashion show held on Nov. 15 at the San Ramon Marriott Hotel. The Orinda Woman's Club yearly fundraiser benefits various worthy nonprofits. This year's major recipients are the Contra Costa Crisis Center and the National Alliance on Mental Illness for Contra Costa County.

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BUSINESS BUZZ

◆ BUZZ from page 20

to open the newest BASU office.

They moved offices to Orinda from Oakland for several reasons, explains Basu: "It's quieter than a downtown city location with fewer distractions; we are in close proximity to S.F. and Oakland; are well connected to business partners like USPS/FedEx/UPS; and it's within walking distance of BART." They also like the fact that there are students doing homework in the coffee shops, a welcoming sight. "We're serious about how we conduct our business and the environment in Orinda supports that," says Basu.

To show their appreciation to the community, BASU recently donated 100 eAlarms to The Orinda Association's Seniors Around Town program. They fit on a key ring and at 120 decibels work as a portable personal alarm, criminal deterrent and acoustic animal repellent. To activate it, just pull out the pin; to deactivate it, replace the pin. The sound lasts for 30 minutes. *Forbes* calls it, "The alarm for everyone."

BASU recently debuted its patented eAlarmGPS which emits a 130dB alarm with 24/7 stand-alone monitoring and a rechargeable battery that runs two years. BASU's monthly Professional Emergency



ELANA O'LOSKEY

BASU.com co-founder **Shub Basu** holds the company's new eAlarmGPS in front of their Orinda office. The device provides 24/7 stand-alone monitoring as a portable personal alarm, criminal deterrent, acoustic animal repellent and rescue signal.

Response subscription includes all data and 24/7 protection connected by AT&T with free 24/7/365 customer support. It includes BASU's Magic™ Technology,

built-in connectivity and GPS location with no cell phone required. Just pull the pin to activate the alarm and summon an emergency response. Details can be found

on the company's website about this and other innovative products.

BASU is looking to co-share office space at its Orinda location – give personnel a call at 804-571-2278 if you are interested, or stop by to meet the team at 8 Camino Encinas, Suite 100 in Orinda, M – F from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Visit them any time online at www.basu.com.

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(925) 253-1225

◆ RHEEM from page 15

Man About the House, the story revolved around three single roommates: Janet Wood, Chrissy Snow, and Jack Tripper, who live together in a Santa Monica apartment complex owned by Stanley and Helen Roper.

For the Rheem Theatre live production of the TV sitcom, co-directors Reed Summers-Pirkle and Zemrak have cast the following Bay Area/Lamorinda performers: Janet (Suzie Mele), Chrissy (Nicole Berzins), Jack (Zemrak), Mrs. Roper (Patti

Leidecker) and Mr. Roper (Lance Mack).

Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased online at www.lamorindatheatres.com or at the Rheem Theatre box-office. Showtimes are 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. on Dec. 8 and 2 p.m. on Dec. 9. Attendees are encouraged to bring a canned food item for the Contra Costa Food Bank. Proceeds for the evening will be donated to the CTVPS and the Moraga Community Foundation, both 501(c)3 non-profit organizations.

The CTVPS educates individuals, community, arts/media, business and academic organizations and institutions on the social

significance and positive influence of classic television programming, with specific regard to family values, diversity in the work place, and mutual respect for all people of every cultural background, heritage, race and creed. For more information, go to www.classictvpreserve.org.

The Moraga Community Foundation is a philanthropic organization that works with the community to build a vibrant future for Moraga. The Foundation is working to secure the long-term viability of the Rheem Theatre. For more information, go to www.moragacommunityfoundation.org.

Happy Holidays

The Beaubelle Group

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We are grateful to all of our clients, family, and friends who have entrusted us with the task of helping them sell or find that perfect home.

We wish you all a Happy Holiday Season and a wonderful new year!

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COMPASS

BUSINESS BUZZ

Business Buzz Putting a Personal Face on Local Business

Elana O’Loskey



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

Saffron Indian Restaurant and Bar Opens in Theatre Square

Lovers of authentic Indian food finally have a local restaurant owned and operated by a family dedicated to creating a dining experience sure to hold their interest. Just getting through the 10-page menu will take more than one visit to Saffron Indian Restaurant and Bar (Saffron). There are both Northern and Southern Indian dishes, vegan, vegetarian and gluten free options, salads, live fresh juices, lunch specials and two kids’ menus along with the usual appetizers, chicken, seafood,

soups and Australian lamb dishes. Everything is made fresh each day; nothing is reheated.

Sachin Kumar Sharma moved to California in 2016 to work as a software engineer with large companies but discovered he could not do without his family. At his request, they all moved to California. Sachin’s father Amrit Lal Sharma said, “Find something for me to do; I cannot just be idle.” Amrit had been a professional chef in the U.S. since 1991 in Boston and Cambridge, mainly at India Pavilion in Central Square Cambridge. To say Amrit would love being the chef in his own family-owned restaurant is an understatement; thus, the idea of Saffron was born.

In case you wonder why it took over a year for them to open, issues between the previous parties involved with the location combined with permit applications took time to resolve. Sachin began looking for a suitable location in Lamorinda in April, 2017. The family settled on Orinda because there was no other Indian restaurant here, and they liked the reputation of the town as friendly and filled with food lovers. Sachin recalls spending time standing outside Orinda Theatre asking passersby if they would enjoy an Indian restaurant in Orinda. The answer was a resounding “Yes!”

When Saffron first opened Oct. 11, wait times for Amrit’s slow-cooking method dishes were too long for the average diner. Avid problem solvers, the family called in experts who advised adding burners in the kitchen, identifying menu items that are



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Amrit Lal and Renu Bala Sharma, owners of Saffron Indian Restaurant & Bar in Theatre Square, invite you to try their authentic slow-cooked dishes, spiced to your liking.

done quickly, and coming up with other improvements such as discounted quick lunch menu items like chicken tikka masala wraps. Sachin and Amrit found a contractor to transform the kitchen that was expected to be in use by early December.

Family members (now business partners) who came together from the four corners of the earth to give their all to make Saffron hum include Chef Amrit Lal Sharma, his wife Renu Bala Sharma, who prepares many dishes including vegetables and desserts, their son and daughter-in-law Sachin Kumar and Rubina Sharma, their daughter Vandana Pathak, and Sachin’s brother-in-law Ravikant Pathak. All family members live in El Sobrante.

Stop by to meet the family and sample the menu and full bar options. You will find complimentary poppadoms at your table. So far, more than half their business is repeat diners. Locals return for chicken tikka masala, garlic nan, lamb Rogan josh, dosas at lunchtime, tandoori shrimp or chicken (marinated in yogurt), chicken biryani (organic chicken served with basmati rice, bell peppers, spices, green peas, onions, nuts and raita). Try gulab jamun, a traditional Indian dessert consisting of dumplings made with khoya served hot in rose-scented syrup sprinkled with coconut.

Saffron is open 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. for lunch Tuesday through Sunday, and from 5 p.m. to 8:30 – 9 p.m. every day for dinner. Also, look for a Happy Hour bar and food menu. The restaurant is at 2 Theatre Square

#153, Orinda, 925-217-1211.

BASU.COM Start-Up Debuts IoT Product Huffington Post Calls “... brilliant but simple invention.”

BASU.COM is a consumer electronics startup specializing in “IoT” products to keep you mobile. An Orinda location opened in 2015. The “Internet of Things” is a term used to describe the coupling of devices (other than computers and smart phones) connected to the Internet. Examples are cars, consumer electronics such as kitchen appliances, safety devices and even heart monitors, i.e., objects that “talk” to each other.

The company’s best-selling personal alarm – a new concept for many – hit the U.S. market in 2015. Nicknamed the “sound grenade,” it was described as the world’s smallest SOS alarm. It was featured on *The Today Show* with Kathie Lee Gifford as well as *Jimmy Kimmel Live!* and *The Tonight Show* with Conan O’Brien.

Dr. Shub Basu, co-founder, is the Chief Technical Officer because of his 20 years of experience in hardware, semiconductors and product development/product management. He has worked with multiple Fortune 500 companies and co-founded Lyk2Buy.com. Basu lives with his family in San Francisco. Co-founder and CEO Sam Mansen, Captain, USAF, served as a top performing officer and has an MBA from UMass. Mansen recently moved to Seattle

[SEE BUZZ page 19]

HOLIDAY SHOP ORINDA

Saturday, December 1st

- Morrison’s Jewelers – Free watch battery! Bring a new, unwrapped toy for our “Toys for Tots” holiday drive and get a free watch battery installed.**
- Anytime Fitness in Theatre Square – One day only! \$0 enrollment fee! Bring 5 canned goods for the local food bank and get your first month free!**
- Cine Cuvée – Sit outside and watch the fun!**
- LOADS Ice Cream, 23 Brookwood Rd., will offer One Free Topping!**
- 7:30 pm TREE LIGHTING IN THEATRE SQUARE**
- 6-8 pm Santa photos, ornament workshop, horse and carriage rides**
- Free shopping bag at CHEVRON, 1 Orinda Way, with Gas Purchase! Limited Quantity**
- Orinda Books, 276 Village Sq. – local authors and locally-made gifts, olive oil, ceramics and artwork! Buy a gift certificate for your teacher.**
- Village Inn Café, 204 Village Sq. will stay open longer hours for hungry little singers and their families.**
- Rechic 101, 101 Orinda Way – Consignment Clothing for Women & Teens; Gift Shop & Gift Wrapping
Come for a glass of wine and shopping.
Free organic face sheet mask with a purchase.**
- Tally Home, 25 Orinda Way – New Home Décor Store.
Stop in for hot apple cider! Beautiful holiday items for sale.**
- 4:30 pm HOSPICE TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY with SANTA!!**

TOY DRIVES

Morrison’s Jewelers, 35 Moraga Way
Dr. Amin Samadian, DDS office, 23 Orinda Way, Suite 301

FOOD DONATION BINS

Hilton House, 21A Orinda Way
(Open house Dec 6, 5 – 8pm Everything is on sale)
Anytime Fitness in Theatre Square
Mechanics Bank, 77 Moraga Way