



THE ORINDA NEWS

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North Orinda Helped Refine Evacuation Procedures During January Drill

By SALLY HOGARTY
Executive Editor

On Jan. 26, from 7 – 8 a.m., the lower part of Miner Rd. became a one-way street as residents left their homes and proceeded to Hwy. 24 as part of an evacuation drill conducted by the Moraga Orinda Fire Department (MOFD).

MOFD, which partnered with the Orinda and Moraga Police Departments and Lamorinda CERT members for the Jan. 26 drill, plans to use information derived from the event to refine evacuation plans.

“We asked residents of Sleepy Hollow, Dalewood (Orinda Downs) and Upper Miner to participate by first signing up for the Community Warning System (CWS),”

explains MOFD Fire Chief Dave Winnacker. “Participants received a call in the early morning of Jan. 26 telling them to evacuate. We asked participants to then move from their homes, follow traffic laws, and proceed down to the Lombardy/Miner split. At that point, Miner Rd. became contra flow, meaning both lanes were used for west bound traffic. Participants then continued down Miner to Camino Pablo, turned left and proceeded to Hwy. 24. Once they were on the highway, their part of the exercise was over.”

Lamorinda CERT members stationed along Miner Rd. controlled traffic and directed the use of the contra flow traffic at the Lombardy/Miner split. Observers, [SEE MOFD page 14]

Orinda’s New Mayor Sets Priorities



SALLY HOGARTY
Orinda Mayor **Inga Miller** was sworn into office Dec. 11.

By SALLY HOGARTY
Executive Editor

On Dec. 11, Inga Miller was sworn in as Orinda’s 35th mayor. The third generation Orindan served as a member of the Parks and Recreation Commission prior to running for the Orinda City Council in 2016. Miller becomes mayor during a transitional time with two new city council members starting their first terms as well. Dennis Fay and Nick Kosla took the seats vacated by Eve Phillips and Dean Orr.

Miller lists fire safety, downtown revitalization, reimbursement for the Miner Road

sink hole and opening the Art and Garden Center in Wilder as top priorities.

“Fire safety and evacuation routes are in the forefront of everybody’s mind,” says Miller. “Fire Chief Winnacker has spearheaded various ways to make our neighborhoods fire safe, including evacuation drills to see what works and where the problems lie.”

Miller notes that drills held in Moraga Dec. 12 and Orinda Jan. 26 showed the importance of city and police involvement.

“The cities have to be very involved because it is the police who will be directing evacuations while the fire department fights the fire. It’s imperative that cities be knowledgeable and have a plan.”

Given the change in climate and the growing frequency of wildfires, Miller believes it’s even more important for residents to know how to keep their homes and neighborhoods as safe as possible. According to Miller, Chief Winnacker has a list of ways for residents to make their homes safer and lower their insurance rates at the same time.

Mayor Miller also expressed excitement with the ConnectOrinda campaign, which held its second town hall style meeting with residents Jan. 29. The workshop gave residents the opportunity to discuss and provide feedback on a list of potential projects to improve the downtown streetscape. A meet- [SEE MAYOR page 14]

Citizen and Mott Awards Announced



SALLY HOGARTY

Janet Riley (center) was the winner of last year’s Citizen of the Year award. Shown with her are (L) Orinda Association Past President **Cindy Powell** and (R) the Orinda Community Foundation’s **Richard Westin**. Congratulations to **Carole and Andy Amstutz** for being selected as the Orinda Community Foundation’s 2018 Citizens of the Year and to **William Hudson** for receiving The Orinda Association’s coveted William Penn Mott, Jr. Environmental Award. These recipients will be honored on March 10 beginning at 6 p.m. at a gala awards dinner at the Orinda Country Club. Also honored that evening will be Orinda’s Volunteer award recipients **Bobbie Landers** and **Andy Radlow**. To make dinner reservations, go to www.orindaassociation.org. For more information, call 925-254-0800 or email oa@orindaassociation.org.

Local Editor Takes on New Role

By KATHRYN G. MCCARTY
Staff Writer

This month marks major changes for *The Orinda News* as Editor Sally Hogarty transitions into her new role as executive editor of the newspaper.

When Hogarty started her editorial

position 25 years ago, she often used The Orinda Association’s (OA) small office in a portable building behind the old Community Center. In the days before scanning, [SEE EDITOR page 3]




CHARLIE JARRETT

After 25 years with *The Orinda News*, Sally Hogarty has transitioned to a new role as executive editor.

IN THIS ISSUE

News	
CC Water District	14
Medians	7
Police Blotter	6
Around Town	
Books	13
Fundraisers	2, 4, 7
Local Events	2, 6, 8, 17
MOFD	5
Performing/Visual Arts	9, 15
Schools/Students	10-11
Seniors	15
Business Buzz	20
Calendar	17
Car Time	8
Classifieds	16
Editorial	4
Everyday Orinda	12
The Orinda News	5
The Orinda Association	3



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Children's Health Guild Holiday Fundraiser Raises \$180K for Children's Healthcare

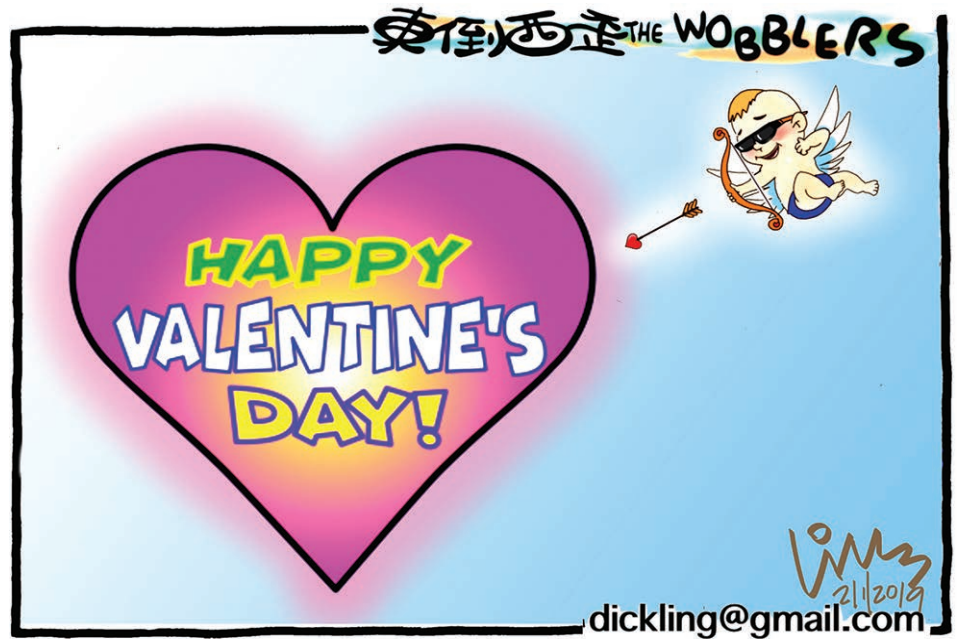
By ELANA O'LOSKEY
Staff Writer

On Nov. 30 at the Ritz-Carlton San Francisco, more than 300 guests came together to "Gather, Give and Empower"

on behalf of the Children's Health Guild (CHG) winter fundraiser. The event benefits UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital in Oakland (CHO) and George Mark Chil-
[SEE CHG page 6]



(L-R) Event Co-Chair **Erin Roth** of Orinda, Children's Health Guild President **Dariana Ross** of Lafayette and Event Co-Chair **Sharon Koh** also of Orinda, hosted the "Gather, Give, Empower" fundraiser held Nov. 30 at the Ritz Carlton San Francisco.



"Live at the Orinda" Concert Series Brings Broadway Stars to Town

By SALLY HOGARTY
Executive Editor

The concert series "Live At the Orinda" got off to a great start last month with the appearance of legendary actor/singer Rita Moreno. The brainchild of Lamorinda Theatres owner Derek Zemrak and cabaret producer Michael Williams, the concert series performs in the historic Orinda Theatre's mid-sized movie venue.

"Our goal has been two-fold: to bring world-class Broadway and jazz artists who excel in this intimate style of performing and who don't often perform in the Bay Area to the Orinda Theatre; and to create a sense of community among live music lovers. It's a beautiful community here and an untapped market, we've discovered," says Zemrak.

The 180-seat space provides a rare opportunity to see Broadway stars in an intimate setting. Moreno's performances on Jan. 19 and 20 not only provided an up-close-and-personal setting for the award-winning star but also served as a fundraiser for the theater with proceeds used to purchase permanent concert lighting for the series.

The season continues on **Sunday, Feb. 17**, with three-time Tony nominated Broadway star **Carolee Carmello** (*Scandalous*, *Mamma Mia!*, *Finding Neverland*) making her long-awaited Bay Area concert debut. Carmello has had a plethora of starring roles in Broadway musicals since landing her first role in *City of Angels* in 1989. Her most recent performances include: Donna in *Mamma Mia!*, Alice in *The Addams Fam-*



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Tony-nominated Broadway performer **Carolee Carmello** makes her Bay Area debut at the Orinda Theatre on Feb. 17.

ily, Mother Superior in *Sister Act*, Aimee in *Scandalous* and Madame du Maurier in *Finding Neverland*.

On **Thursday, March 14**, Broadway and TV star **Telly Leung** (*Aladdin*, *Wicked*, *Allegiance*, *GLEE*) will appear in his first Bay Area concert in many years. Platinum-selling singer/songwriter **Ann Hampton Callaway** (*At the Same Time*) will reunite with Broadway star and sister **Liz Callaway** (*Miss Saigon*, *Cats*) on **Thursday, April 4**, for their award-winning show *Sibling Revelry*. This also marks the first Bay Area duo concert by the Tony-nominated sisters in several years. The first half of

[SEE CAMELLO page 4]



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THE ORINDA ASSOCIATION

A Message From the OA President
New Beginnings



Carlos Baltodano

In my new role as The Orinda Association (OA) president, I would like to wish all of you a fabulous February and a great 2019. As the new year begins, it's important to thank the many volunteers in Orinda who make this city such a great place to live. I would like to especially acknowledge the services of our outgoing co-presidents, Cindy Powell and Anil Comelo and our current officers, Joe Garvey, Bill Waterman and Sally Hogarty. The board of the OA would like to thank our donors for their support in 2018. With your time and financial contributions, we were able to provide wonderful events and services for Orinda. This included the Seniors Around Town (SAT) program, the 4th of July Parade, the Orinda Classic Car Show, *The Orinda News* and many others.

Several years ago, *Forbes Magazine* nominated Orinda as the second friendliest city in America. The involvement and percentage of charitable giving by residents

within the community was one of the parameters used by *Forbes* in making its determination.

One of the pleasures of living in this beautiful city is the enjoyment of participating and attending one of the many events offered within the community. Some of the events offered throughout the year are the Orinda Film Festival, the California Shakespeare Theater, the annual Classic Car Show, the 4th of July Parade and the NorCal Kids Triathlon. These events, which are sponsored, organized and mostly executed by volunteers, generate contributions to support local programs and projects throughout the city.

Two of my favorite programs that benefit from these generous donations are the SAT program and the "Live at the Orinda" concert series. SAT has been around for 14 years. It provides free rides to Orinda senior residents utilizing volunteer drivers from the community. When this unique program

◆ EDITOR from page 1

word attachments, Dropbox and Google Docs became common, Hogarty carried hard copies of the paper to the homes of OA members for proofing. Faxing was the preferred method of communication. Flash drives belonged to the future.

"Although a lot has changed with how the paper is produced, one thing remains the same – the people," says Hogarty. "Orinda residents are still friendly, very involved with their schools and community, intelligent and highly articulate."

Hogarty joined the paper in 1993 as assistant editor to Editor Bill Glazier. In 1994, she became assistant editor to Lynda Leonard. Hogarty was promoted to editor in September 2000 and is grateful for the early mentorship of Leonard and previous *Orinda News*' editors Ann O'Connell-Nye and Hillary Hoppock. "Their encouragement and insight helped me grow as a writer, editor and a person," says Hogarty.

"Always a professional, Sally is possibly the hardest working person I have known," says Leonard, who credits Hogarty with moving the paper to a monthly publication. "She has made an enormous contribution to *The Orinda News* and our community. During a time when papers are shrinking, reporting local news is essential."

Hogarty's work on the paper has not always been appreciated. "I've dealt with a fair amount of criticism. When I have both sides of an argument telling me I got the story wrong, I must be doing something right," she laughs.

Former Orinda mayor and current City Council Member Amy Worth is impressed with Hogarty's coverage of Orinda. "She contributes so much and provides tremendous, wonderfully balanced coverage of issues; and she does it with grace." Worth describes Hogarty as a "fantastic inspira-

tion" and calls her commitment to journalism and the community "The real glue that holds people together."

With Editor Simar Khanna joining the staff, Hogarty expects to significantly reduce her workload. "I think it's definitely time for new ideas and a fresh perspective," she says. "I'll still be around, however, attending local meetings and events."

Hogarty continues, "I really cherish the many close friends I have in Orinda, especially the staff at The Orinda Association. I've also been fortunate to work with so many wonderful writers who care deeply about their local community. I'm especially proud to have worked with many middle school interns and high school columnists, whose energy and enthusiasm is contagious."

Hogarty is also passionate about her successful, second career as an actress. She recently performed in several independent films and television shows, and can be seen in commercials including one for Ancestry.com airing currently in the U.S. and Europe.

"Like many people, I've had a few health issues over the years that remind me to focus on my priorities," says Hogarty. "I'm looking forward to seeing old friends who live out of the area and catching more of our granddaughter's college soccer games. My husband Ken retired 18 months ago so he's looking forward to me having a bit more time to do things with him," she adds.

Hogarty makes 70 look like the new 30. This energetic powerhouse starts each day with Yoga to get focused and believes eating well and exercise help her to be the best person she can be. Her plans for the future include continuing to write her weekly performing arts column "Curtain Calls" for the *East Bay Times*, performing, enjoying more family time and embracing life's changes.

began, it filled 24 rider requests. Last year, there were more than 1300 rider requests. A huge leap, underscoring the great need for this kind of volunteer service to our residents.

My second favorite program, which is celebrating only its second year is the "Live at the Orinda" concert series. This program provides premier live Broadway entertainment in a desirable intimate setting at the iconic and historic Orinda Theatre. My wife and I attended the "Kick Off for 2019" Jan. 20. Rita Moreno was the headliner and she was FANTASTIC. Ms. Moreno has won all the major performing arts awards: Emmy, Grammy, Oscar and Tony. She sang songs from *West Side Story* and other Broadway hits. For each song (some of which she sang in Spanish), she told stories and interesting anecdotes about who wrote the song and the history behind the song. If you haven't been to this kind of

live performance, you will be moved by the intimate style of the venue. It makes you appreciate each song and the background of why it was written.

This wonderful series would not have been possible without the sponsorship and contributions of the Orinda Community Foundation and our city's philanthropic soul, Steve Harwood. There are 76 subscribers out of the 190 seats available, so there is still plenty of space. Carolee Carmello, three-time Tony nominated Broadway star, will headline Feb. 17. Coming March 14 is Telly Leung, Broadway/TV star of *Glee* and *Aladdin*. Please visit www.LamorindaTheatres.com for tickets and showtimes. We'll see you there!

Orinda's greatest strength is its residents. Without your involvement, time and financial contributions, many of these programs would not be available to the community. Thank you!

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.

P.O. Box 97
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Editorial... A Time of Changes

It's hard to believe but 2019 marks the beginning of my 26th year with *The Orinda News*. So much has changed in the city and at the paper during that time. When I first started, we only published quarterly with a special 4th of July edition and, if it happened to be a local election year, a special election edition. When I started as the assistant editor in 1993, the City of Orinda had an old city hall and library and Wilder, then owned by Pacific New Wave, was still a contentious set of development plans.

In 1993, *The Orinda News* didn't have a website and now we have two. You can see a PDF of the entire paper on the Orinda Association's website, www.orindaassociation.org, and our new website, www.theorindanews.com, allows you to search for particular topics and send links to separate articles. In the near future, our new website will also offer online advertising. If you would like to be on the inside track for this advertising, email Jill Gelster at jill@aspenconsult.net.

My 26th year with the paper also seemed like the perfect time to make changes in staffing. While I've loved being the editor all these years, it can be a bit time consuming, and there are so many other things I'd like to pursue. As of Feb. 1, I will become the executive editor with long-time journalist/editor Simar Khanna as editor. I will still be very involved with the newspaper and will attend local meetings and events as I do now, but many of the day-to-day operations will be handled by Simar. Check out the article on page five to learn more about our new editor.

We are also introducing a new column this month: "Everyday Orinda!" by resident Mimi Bommarito will examine a variety of activities taking place in town. To see her first column on San Pablo Creek, go to page 12.

I look forward to following all the developments in Orinda and the varied activities of its residents for years to come.

— Sally Hogarty, Executive Editor

Letters to the Editor...

Veterans Appreciate Support of Lamorinda Citizens, Businesses

On behalf of all of the members of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 8063, I would like to express our deep gratitude to the people of Lamorinda for their generosity in supporting our recent Buddy Poppy fundraising effort leading up to Veteran's Day. Every penny of the more than \$4000 raised will go directly to local veterans in need. It was an outstanding effort by the members of Post 8063 who volunteered to man the poppy distribution sites and collect the donations.

In addition, we are grateful to Diablo Foods of Lafayette for allowing us to use their location as a collection point. We mourn the passing of Ed Stokes, their founder and a member of our post. He was an outstanding person and an example to us all.

Thanks also to Bank of America of Orinda for providing a very productive site for our efforts.

Without the generosity of our local citizens and the support of all participants, we could not have accomplished our mission. We salute you!

Bill Charles

Orindan Asks: Where have All The Flowers Gone?

It was more than winter's wet weather and wild winds that nipped in the bud the Orinda children's flower sketching.

One might recall that those children's sketches were described in the September 2018 *The Orinda News*' article on

page 12 as "Artwork Blossoms on Orinda Bridge." While that winter weather was worrisome for the survival of those flowers, two unanticipated city actions led to the nipping.

First, in 1994, in a Freeway Maintenance Agreement with the State of California, the city agreed to "maintain, at city's expense... all portions of the [Bridge] structure above the concrete deck surface..."

Then, very recently, the City Planning Department advised me that:

"Staff agrees that the bridge could use some cleaning up.... there is potential do [sic] public art on the interior pathways part of the bridge, using paint, but we would need to vet any proposed project with the community and find funding."

Amazing to me that advising also referred to staff speaking with: "someone from the Lamorinda Arts Council who had the idea of painting poems somewhere in Orinda as a public art project, and we discussed the bridge as a potential location for such a project."

It is clear then that the city will control any further activity to enhance the "interior pathways part of the bridge."

In response, this is a hearty thank you and well done to the children who sent their flower sketches in for mounting on the bridge and to the many volunteers of the garden clubs in Orinda whose well-tended downtown baskets, garden and pots were recognized by photos also mounted on the bridge. You certainly did well absent any "vetting" as shown by the uniformly enthusiastic and positive responses of the

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	Page		Page
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Professional Property Management	19	Orinda Books	6
State Farm Insurance — Bryan Silveira	10	Rechic 101	13
Travel Adventures Unlimited	12		

pedestrians walking past your mounted artwork and photos of flowers.

Although those have been removed, your efforts have been successful. First, such success is shown by those responses of pedestrians. Also, it appears that your efforts helped bring to the city's attention the need for cleaning the bridge and enhancing the experience of the pedestrians on the bridge. Lastly, you sketchers have learned something about perseverance... do not be dismayed by the removal of your artwork. Rather, join with your parents in writing the City's Planning Director, Mr. Buckley, and tell him what you want the city to do to enhance the bridge. He is at: dbuckley@cityoforinda.org.

— Chet Martine

◆ CAMELLO from page 2

the season ends with the Bay Area concert debut of Broadway and East End star Brent Barrett (Olivier Award nominee and star of *Phantom of the Opera*, *Chicago* and *Kiss Me Kate*) **Thursday, May 2.**

Tickets to the concert series at 2 Orinda Theater Square are priced from \$55 - \$100. Subscribers receive ticket discounts and first choice of reserved seats for the season. VIP subscribers and donors are also invited to private post-show receptions with each artist at Ciné Cuvée Wine Bar, adjacent to the theater. Information and tickets for the concert series are available at www.LamorindaTheatres.com or by calling 925-254-9065.

SMC Guild Fundraiser in February

The Saint Mary's College Guild will celebrate its traditional Fun and Games Day scholarship fundraiser on Feb. 21 at the Soda Activity Center (1928 St. Mary's Road, Moraga). The event will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. and includes a buffet luncheon along with the opportunity to join in lively games of Bridge or Bunco. Table prizes will be provided for winners of games and attendees can purchase tickets for raffle prizes. The fundraiser supports Saint Mary's students seeking financial help and is open to the public. Tickets are \$36 per person.

To buy tickets, send a check payable to Saint Mary's College Guild to Patricia Wiegmann at 35 Carr Drive, Moraga, CA 94556, and indicate phone number, game preference and guest names. Bridge players need to identify others at their tables.

For questions call Shirley Holloway at 925-376-6588 or Patricia Wiegmann at 925-376-6088.

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 Assistant Editors David Dierks, Lynn Kalmar
 Copy Editor..... Ken Hogarty
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 Contributing Writers Aimee Wall
 Graphics/Layout..... Aspen Consulting: Jill Gelster & David Dierks
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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 editor@theorindanews.com. Letters to Editor for the March issue are due **February 8, 2019.**

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 March issue is February 8, 2019.

Newcomer Steven Danziger Named President of Fire District Board

By DAVID DIERKS
Assistant Editor

In November's election, three new members were elected to the Moraga-Orinda Fire District (MOFD) Board of Directors. The members, Gregory Baitx (District 1, Moraga), Steven Danziger (District 3, Orinda) and Michael Donner (District 4, Orinda) ran as a union-backed slate against independent candidates in the three districts.

Canyon resident Jonathan Goodwin says, "It's a very unusual occurrence where we had two slates of candidates facing off against each other, and an entire slate won." Goodwin seems optimistic about things, saying "I'm expecting this is very good news for the rank and file and has elevated morale considerably. I hope it will be a turning point for the positive."

Contrary to Goodwin's expectations, however, the new board members' first action has upset many district residents. At the Dec. 5 MOFD Board meeting, Danziger became the new president. Historically, new directors serve as director, treasurer or secretary, while the previous secretary becomes vice president and the previous vice president becomes president.

After being informed of the precedent, Donner clarified that it was tradition and not in the bylaws; he then nominated Danziger as president, which was immediately seconded by Baitx. Previous secretary Craig Jorgens became vice president and previous Vice President John Jex became secretary while Donner became treasurer.

"I was really caught off guard by this, and I'm feeling very distressed about it. I'm concerned about the impression that the union is taking over the board and is going to take over the fire district. I find that a disturbing message to send out," Goodwin admits.

Goodwin is not alone in his reservations about the new board members' first action. Moraga Town Council member Kymberleigh Korpus, commenting as a citizen, not as a council member, says, "I have some experience being on a board of this sort, and I would like to note that when we have new members come on there's a huge learning curve. In my experience, the tradition is often there for a reason, and the tradition gives new people time to learn and to understand a lot of information."

Former MOFD Board Member Brad Barber agrees: "There is a reason for a mechanism such as seniority. It is a politically neutral mechanism. It avoids a fight. The position of president of the district is not a tremendously powerful position, but it is important in several respects. By providing a system of seniority, everyone will eventually become president which



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Steven Danziger is the new MOFD board president.

avoids a contention that I think is best to be avoided." Korpus adds, "On the Moraga Town Council, we have an experience in our not so distant past of a tradition not being followed, and the political fallout from it was extreme. It generated a lot of divisiveness and anger between members of the town council. The town still talks about it."

In an effort to calm angry voices, Vince Wells, president of Fire Fighters Local 1230, clarifies, "Our opinion about why we endorse certain candidates is to maintain a level of protection for this community. We believe we stood up for the community by endorsing these candidates. I do not want to have this board make decisions or have members of the community think that what the board decides to do is based on the fact that we supported these candidates."

Wells wants to assure residents that the union had no ulterior motive in supporting the new board members: "We supported them because we believe in fire protection, fire fighter safety, and the maintenance of that ability to provide protection for a community that we are serving. I just want to make the point that any discussion starting from 'these are the union candidates,' is inappropriate, and I hope that nobody on this board, even the ones that we supported, operate from that platform."

Orindan Steve Cohn disagrees: "If there is any doubt that the three new board members are acting as a block, then their first action at their first board meeting certified it. If there was any doubt that the employee's union now controls MOFD, that doubt is now gone. What they do with that control remains to be seen." Cohn is also concerned about where funds will be allocated by MOFD going forward. "If the Oakland Hills fire and the Santa Rosa fire were not wakeup calls that we cannot just wait for it to happen here, the Paradise fire was. We need to start implementing preventive measures. MOFD has to work with Orinda and Moraga in this effort. Will MOFD start carving funds out of its \$28 million budget to help fund this or will all increases go to employee compensation as they have for the past two decades?"

For more information, visit the district website at www.mofd.org.

NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE

ON A CITY OF ORINDA COMMISSION OR COMMITTEE

Effective February, 2019, there will be vacancies on several city commissions and committees:

- Planning Commission (3)**
 - Parks & Recreation Commission (2)**
 - Citizens' Infrastructure Oversight Commission (4)**
 - Finance Advisory Committee (1)**
 - Historical Landmarks Committee (2)**
 - Art in Public Places Committee (1)**
 - Public Works Aesthetic Review Committee (1)**
 - Traffic Safety Advisory Committee (1)**
- The City of Orinda is also seeking applications from resident volunteers to serve as the City's Liaison to the following local agencies:
- Contra Costa Mosquito and Vector Control District Trustee (1)**
 - County Library Commission (1)**
 - Contra Costa Transportation Authority Citizen Advisory Committee (1)**

Statement of Interest forms are available from the Orinda City Clerk's Office, 22 Orinda Way, Orinda, CA or by contacting Sheri Smith, City Clerk at 925-253-4221 or ssmith@cityoforinda.org. Completed Statement of Interest forms should be submitted to the City Clerk's Office by Monday, Feb. 4, at 5 p.m.

Qualified applicants will be invited to interview before the City Council on Saturday Feb. 9.

Simar Khanna Named Editor

By SALLY HOGARTY
Executive Editor

On Feb. 1, Simar Khanna took the reigns as editor of *The Orinda News*. She continues a proud tradition begun in 1985 when Ann O'Connell-Nye resurrected the "newsletter" and began regular publication of the *New Orinda News* in 1986. Hillary Hoppock, Bill Glazier, Lynn Leonard and Sally Hogarty followed as subsequent editors.

With a BA in journalism from San Francisco State, where she was editor of the student newspaper, Khanna brings a plethora of experience to *The Orinda News*. From 1994-2010, she worked for the *San Francisco Examiner and Chronicle*, where she climbed the ranks from copy editor to section leader of some of the paper's most popular offerings, including "96 Hours" and "East Bay Life."

Khanna went on to the *East Bay Times* (EBT) in 2014, where as Deputy Metro Editor she oversaw news coverage and contributed to the newspaper's website while promoting content on social media.

She left her position at the EBT in 2018 and currently, is a contributor to the niche online magazine *India Currents*, which serves Indian expat communities around the world.

Khanna also helped open and run a trendy Indian fast-food restaurant in San Francisco's financial district, holds a Cali-



SALLY HOGARTY

Simar Khanna becomes the sixth editor of *The Orinda News* effective Feb. 1.

fornia broker's license and speaks English, Punjabi, Hindi and Spanish.

In addition to journalism, one of Khanna's passions is travel and says she dreams of living a nomad life with stints in different parts of the world. She got a taste of that last year when Khanna spent a month in Mexico. She says it was one of the most enriching experiences of her life and believes building connections between cultures is vital.

To reach Khanna, email editor@theorindanews.com. To read articles in *The Orinda News* online, go to www.TheOrindaNews.com. The site is updated with news stories which break after print publication and contains additional photos of events covered in the print edition.

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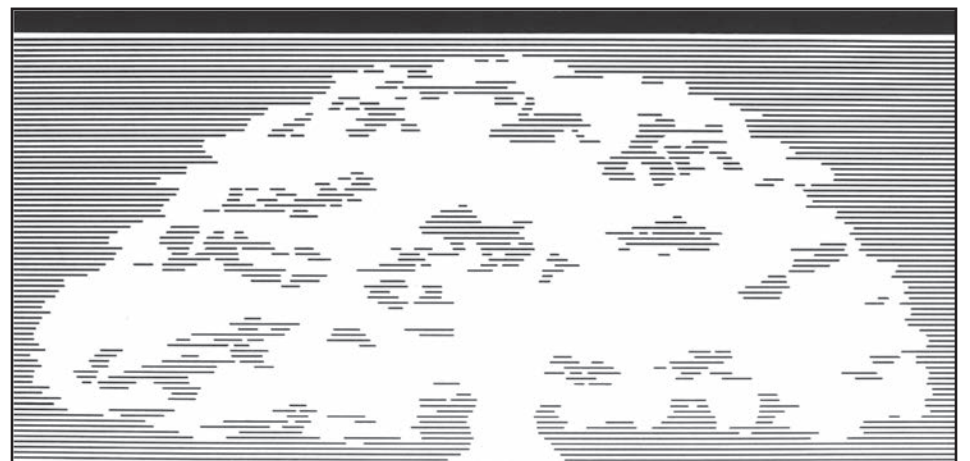


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POLICE BLOTTER

December 2, 2018 through January 12, 2019

Calls for Service

911 Hangup: 13 incidents.
 Abandoned Vehicle: 2 incidents.
 Accident Property: 7 incidents.
 Alarm, False: 47 incidents.
 Barking Dog: 1 incident.
 Battery: 2 incidents.
 Bomb Threat: 1 incident.
 Burglary, Residential: 1 incident.
 Civil Matter: 10 incidents.
 CVC Moving Violation: 94 incidents.
 CVC Non-Moving Violation: 53 incidents.
 Found Property: 1 incident.
 Grand Theft: 2 incidents.
 Grand Theft from Building: 1 incident.
 Hailed by Citizen: 1 incident.
 Hazmat: 1 incident.
 Hit & Run Misdemeanor: 1 incident.
 Identity Theft: 4 incidents.
 Litter: 1 incident.
 Lost Property: 2 incidents.
 Medical Hospital: 4 incidents.
 Missing Adult: 1 incident.
 Occupied Stalled Vehicle: 4 incidents.
 Ordinance Violation: 5 incidents.
 Outside Assist: 25 incidents.
 Panhandling: 1 incident.
 Parking Detail: 46 incidents.
 Patrol Request: 17 incidents.
 Petty Theft: 3 incidents.
 Public Assembly Check: 6 incidents.
 Public Nuisance: 1 incident.
 Reckless Driving: 14 incidents.
 School Check: 17 incidents.

Security Check: 13 incidents.
 Service to Citizen: 81 incidents.
 Shoplifting: 1 incident.
 Shots Heard: 3 incidents.
 Suspicious Circumstances: 10 incidents.
 Suspicious Person Stop: 15 incidents.
 Suspicious Subject: 8 incidents.
 Suspicious Vehicle: 9 incidents.
 Suspicious Vehicle Stop: 13 incidents.
 Tow: 1 incident.
 Traffic Collision/Property Damage: 3 incidents.
 Traffic Hazard: 10 incidents.
 Vacation House Check: 21 incidents.
 Vandalism: 2 incidents.
 Vehicle Theft: 2 incidents.
 Verbal Dispute: 1 incident.
 Walk Through: 6 incidents.
 Welfare Check: 11 incidents.

Arrest

Assault with Deadly Weapon: 1 arrest.
 Battery: 1 arrest.
 DUI: 1 arrest.
 Marijuana Sale: 1 arrest.
 Warrant Arrest: 2 arrests.

BART Statistics

No incidents reported.

— Compiled by David Dierks
 Assistant Editor

For more incidents details, visit
www.crimereports.com

◆ CHG from page 2

dren's Home (GMCH) in San Leandro. The day began with the option to shop one's way more or less guilt-free through several large rooms filled with close to 30 luxury boutiques. Guilt-free because 25 percent of sales go to the beneficiaries.

As the luncheon began, CHG President Dariana Ross welcomed the guests and introduced the first speaker, Kristen Posey, wife of the Giants' icon who was behind the plate for three World Series triumphs. Posey was honoree and recipient of the first ever CHG Helping Heart Award because of her dedication and philanthropic efforts to help fight pediatric cancer. Beginning in 2016, the Buster and Kristen Posey Family Foundation has contributed almost \$3 million to fund pioneering research and treatment and raise aware-

ness about pediatric cancer. See www.BP28.org for more information about the foundation.

Divina Wheelright, manager of Child Life Services at CHO, described how she creates role plays for children using dolls and real or pretend medical equipment to explain the medical procedures they are facing. Because of CHG funding, there are two child life specialists in the E.R. who meet children at the door to guide and nurture them through whatever medical tests they need.

JeanMarie Mead, pediatric hospice and palliative RN from GMCH was honored for dedicating her 30-year nursing career to caring for children receiving palliative, respite and hospice care. She began at GMCH in 2004 and now serves as the nursing education liaison. She related a respite story

Lion Dance Brings in Chinese New Year of the Pig at Orinda Library



Dancers perform a Chinese lion dance before an appreciative audience at the Orinda Library during last year's festivities. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

By LYNN KALMAR
 Assistant Editor

On Feb. 2, members of the Concord Kung Fu Academy will perform a traditional Chinese lion dance in the Library Garden Room in celebration of Lunar New Year. The lion dance dates back thousands of years and is intended to scare away bad spirits and bad luck, and to bring good fortune in the new year. Sometimes the dance includes another traditional element known as "choy cheng" where businesses hang heads of lettuce from their doorways with red envelopes of money inside. The lion pretends to eat the lettuce, spitting

out the leaves as a show of good luck for the businesses and keeping the money as a reward for the dancers. The library performance comes a few days early with the start of Chinese New Year Feb. 5, marking the first day of the "Year of the Pig."

The event is sponsored by Dr. Weylin Eng of Orinda Optometry Group and his wife Rose, who established the Eng Family Endowment for Asian Cultural Programs when the library first re-opened in its current home in 2001. The lion dance will take place at 2:30 p.m. and is free and open to the public. Contact the Orinda Library with questions at 925-254-2184.

through photos about caring for adopted twin girls who had severe medical challenges. Their adopted older mom needed a two-month respite to recover her sight after surgery. Days were spent in a variety of ways: interweaving medical needs with swim breaks, singing sessions with musicians, dog walks around the grounds, and more. Each twin needed her own unique set of activities. GMCH was just the right place for those needs to get met.

As the auctioneer's resonant voice echoed throughout the banquet room, paddles were raised and Fund-A-Need donations mounted. Respite care at GMCH and CHO's Child Life Services will continue

another year. Wendy Rotblat, CHG public relations director, was thrilled to report, "We raised \$180,000 for our beneficiaries! It was a wonderful day of shopping and fun but, most importantly, a very successful fundraiser for George Mark Children's Home and UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital Oakland!"

Closing remarks by event co-chairs and Orinda residents Sharon Koh and Erin Roth were a testament to the three empowered speakers who shared so eloquently about their dedication to making a difference in the lives of children receiving critical pediatric care. To learn more about CHG, visit www.childrenshealthguild.org.

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11:30 am

Alan Brennert
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TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 26
11:30 am

Christopher Castellani
Leading Men
VIKING \$27

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ORINDA GARDEN CLUB / PROPEL A CURE



SALLY HOGARTY

New drought-resistant shrubs and trees adorn the medians along Camino Sobrante thanks to funding from the Orinda Garden Club, Orinda Park and Rec and Orinda residents Sylvia and Tim Carter.

Orinda Garden Club Welcomes “A Tale of Four Medians”

By ELANA O'LOSKEY
Staff Writer

Dickens' famous opening sentence of *A Tale of Two Cities* begins, “It was the best of times, it was the worst of times ...” So goes the tale of the Camino Pablo Median Renovation Plan Phase I (Plan). The old medians were filled with scrubby, half dead plants and detritus – that’s the “worst of times” from the Dickens quote. They now boast healthy plants chosen for their exact site – that’s “the best of times.” Medians A, B, C and D meander down the middle of Camino Pablo from south of Miner Road to North of Santa Maria Way. Median A is near El Toyonal, B is near Orinda Way, C is near Camino Sobrante and D is near Santa Maria Way.

The project began in 2015 with the Orinda Garden Club's (OGC) Orinda in Bloom Garden Tour fundraiser and a generous contribution from Sylvia and Tim Carter. Those funds were earmarked for renovation of the disused medians. Over time it grew to include funds from Orinda Parks and Rec plus expertise from the Orinda Public Works Dept. and CalTrans. The Plan required demolishing existing scrub landscape and [non-functional] irrigation, adding soil amendments and doing fine grading, excavating and installing a new irrigation system, planting trees, shrubs and ground cover and placing mulch and 66 boulders of different sizes.

The OGC has persevered through three presidents since the inception of the project. Current President Cathleen Sodos was the chair of the 2015 fundraiser and had a commitment to see the project through to ensure the \$50K raised was properly allocated. She is very pleased that the Orinda Public Works Dept. and the Parks and Rec Dept. are open to working with groups such as the OGC in a collaborative

fashion.

Several agencies had to sign off because of compliance requirements and \$120,000 later, Phase I is now complete. Sodos goes on to say, “We appreciate the time and effort of Director of Public Works Larry Theis, who carefully guided the project to completion and kept us informed. Our members Margie Murphy (recent past president), Shari Bashin-Sullivan, Sylvia Carter and Janet Riley have been steadfast in their concern and generous with their time as well. We look forward to working with the City of Orinda on future beautification projects.” To learn more about OGC activities go to www.orindagc.org.

All of the plants are drought tolerant, require low maintenance and are buttoned up with three inches of mulch. The plan includes 13 *Quercus agrifolia* or Coast Live Oak trees and 15 *Arbutus* ‘marina’ or Marina Strawberry trees. Shrubs listed on the Plan include 37 *Arctostaphylos* ‘Pacific Mist’ or Manzanita, 79 *Nerium oleander* ‘Dwarf White Sands Oleander’ and 119 *Lomandra longifolia* or Dwarf Mat Rush. The plan required dismantling and removal of the existing non-functional watering system and installing an up-to-date system. This was the most expensive and time consuming part of the renovation, requiring extensive trenching and work-arounds to avoid existing utilities and CalTrans signage.

Despite various obstacles, the OGC has now created over 260 beautiful, drought tolerant, low maintenance plants for community members to enjoy while driving, biking or walking past these much more attractive medians. OGC members gratefully acknowledge the contributions of the Orinda Public Works Department and the Cal trans crew who contributed to the planting, watering and mulching necessary for the new plants.

Propel A Cure Plans February Fundraiser

By KATHRYN G. MCCARTY
Staff Writer

In July 2014 when her son Antony was diagnosed with Crohn's Disease, Annabelle Hall, founder of the non-profit organization Propel A Cure, realized she had work to do: “When your child becomes so ill, with future compromised, a whole different mindset takes over.”

Although Hall and her husband Andre Gout knew nothing about the disease prior to their son's illness, they poured their energy into learning about the disease. Crohn's Disease currently afflicts 1.2 million Americans and 2.3 million Europeans. When Hall realized there is no cure for Crohn's, she was incredulous. “I quickly realized if I wanted to live to see the day my son was cured, I had to help do something about it.”

Hall created Propel A Cure to raise funds for research and promote education about the disease. The group will host a Mardi Gras fundraiser on Feb. 23 from 6 p.m. – midnight at Santa Maria Church, 40 Santa Maria Way in Orinda.

She explains the gala evening includes dinner prepared by a French chef who garnered rave reviews from last year's Mardi Gras event. Other activities include wine tasting, three bands, dancing, and live and silent auctions. Tickets to the event are \$100, with 100 percent of the proceeds going to funding innovative research leading to a cure for Crohn's disease.

Hall is grateful to local businesses who donated many auction items for the upcoming gala, such as restaurant gift cards including Casa Orinda, Siam Orchid, Peet's Coffee and Tea and Republic of Cake, live theater and concert tickets, hotel stays in Napa and Tahoe, kayaking in Santa Cruz, electric bike riding in Monterey, whale watching, paintings and a bi-plane ride. Other local businesses that have donated to the event include: Alma Music, Atma Yoga, Cal Shakes, Smiley Nail Spa and Entourage Spa. “We've also received a super generous donation from Epicurean Exchange and Village Associates,” adds Hall.

“People fighting this horrific, debilitating disease are amazing warriors, true survivors often suffering in silence. I have also learned that courage is in all of us,” Hall exclaims. Fighting Crohn's Disease



alongside her son and family has taught the family a lot according to the Orinda mom: “Because of its nature, it is a lonely disease, and those who are ill are reluctant to share that they have it. We refuse, however, to believe that a cure is not possible. Therefore, we will continue to spread the word, seek support and fund promising research.”

Hall explains, “Most people know it is a terrible disease, even if they don't know much about it. They seem to understand viscerally that it is something bad.” She is happy that the awareness in the community is growing, and she educates people on Crohn's by speaking to groups such as Orinda Woman's Club and Rotary as well as raising funds for research.

Hall notes the organization's name was suggested by a woman in Australia: “Propel a Cure - it is active like planes propelling through the air or boats through the water. Through our efforts, we are propelling a cure forward.”

Hall teamed with two other Orinda moms whose children have Crohn's, Dina Fiatarone and Christine Pitt, to raise over \$30,000 last year by hosting a Mardi Gras gala for vaccine research. She hopes this year's Propel A Cure's efforts are equally successful.

To learn more about Propel a Cure or to purchase tickets, visit Propelacure.org, or write propelacure@gmail.com or call 925-528-9559.



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Documentary Film on Climate Change at Orinda Community Church

By KATHRYN G. MCCARTY
Staff Writer

Orinda Community Church invites members of the community to attend a free screening of the documentary “Before the Flood,” a film examining climate change on Sunday, Feb. 3, 11:30 a.m., at Fellowship Hall.

According to Nancy Thursby, the facilitator for the Orinda Community Church Green Team, the screening is an attempt to educate the community on the dangers of climate change. Thursby said OCC follows a number of different organizations including Interfaith Power and Light, which provides quality environmental DVDs for churches to share with their congregations.

Before the Flood presents a riveting account of the dramatic changes caused by human activity which the film is claiming is accelerating species loss on Earth. It also outlines actions that can be taken to prevent catastrophic disruption of life.

Leonardo DiCaprio, Academy Award-winning actor and United Nations messenger of peace, stars in the documentary which follows DiCaprio and actor/docu-

mentarian Fisher Stevens’ travels to all seven continents. The two speak to scientists, world leaders, activists and local residents to gain a deeper understanding of this complex issue as they investigate solutions to the most pressing environmental challenge of our time. The core issues represented are broken down into categories: fossil fuels; methane gas; palm oil; geopolitical landscape and the U.S. political landscape.

The film’s producers emphasize “If we continue at the rate we are going, the ice caps in the North Pole and Greenland could disappear within the century, ultimately wiping out coastal cities around the world and spark the end of humanity as we know it today.”

“Time is not a luxury we have,” said DiCaprio. “Our natural world is quickly nearing unprecedented, irreversible and catastrophic change that threatens the very future of humankind.” DiCaprio explained he didn’t want the film to scare people, but to present to them what can and must be done immediately so that we can leave our planet a livable home for future generations.

[SEE OCC page 16]

CAR TIME

Oil Maintenance Has Changed While Staying the Same

By JOHN VANEK



Taking advantage of current technology, modern vehicles have advanced drastically. Still, even hybrids have combustion engines that require maintenance. Today’s engineers design engines to run ultra-efficiently using components that did not exist previously. They also use types of engine oil that did not exist before.

The whole idea is to reduce friction in order to reduce tailpipe emissions. The other benefit is that the engines potentially last longer. These new engines with slippery new oil reduce friction at start-up and reduce sludge detrimental to engine survival. Like other components on your vehicle, technology will help your vehicle but will come at a price.

This mirrors the fact that new LED type lights are brighter and offer better visibility but the cost of replacement is much more expensive. When you have a Toyota Prius, for example, and one of the taillights goes out, instead of costing \$58 to replace a bulb, you would spend more like \$373 on an LED taillight assembly. Similarly, if you own a new Jeep Cherokee that requires 0/20 viscosity oil, instead of spending \$58 for an oil change you might spend \$122! That is the way it is now.

Most manufacturers are gravitating to the new engine technology. Many European and high-performance engines already require expensive oil. This is one reason people need to be good consumers of automotive ownership. When shopping for a car, find out what kind of oil it takes so you know what the maintenance cost impact will be. At the same time, seek other

maintenance requirements.

If you like high performance cars, you should realize there will be a price of admission. If you are looking for basic transportation you may not want to pay over \$120 for an oil change just to gain one or two MPG while driving.

The technology has indeed changed but the importance of maintenance does not. Modern engines are very reliant on good maintenance. It is very important that they have the correct oil that is changed regularly. Oil change neglect on a hybrid will kill it just the same as it would on a non-hybrid. Even non-hybrid vehicles have modern components that will be affected by low oil level or dirty oil. When a vehicle has a high mileage over 200,000 miles it will burn more oil and will need above average attention to oil changes. At this juncture, more sludge and grit would result even while quietly burning more oil than you are used to using. Such vehicles also require above average attention to checking and adding oil.

We have recently had three different vehicles that had either a seized engine or a noisy engine long before they should. The bottom line? Oil change maintenance is important even with it being more expensive now. Be sure to understand what type of oil your vehicles require. Do your research before buying a new vehicle and understand the financial impact of operating that vehicle. As always, be a good consumer of automotive repair. I am always available for automotive consultation.

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

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VISUAL ARTS

Lafayette and Moraga Arts Ambassadors Wake Up Gallery with Student Art

By ELANA O'LOSKEY
Staff Writer

The Lamorinda Arts Council (LAC) welcomes K-8 Art Ambassadors from Lafayette and Moraga to the Art Gallery at the Orinda Library (Gallery) by displaying their artwork from Feb. 1-13. The public is invited to join the students, their families, teachers and supporters at their artist reception on Feb. 5 from 4 to 6 p.m. where light refreshments will be served.

Superintendent Richard Whitmore from Lafayette School District will be on hand to congratulate the students on their exhibit. Each student artist will receive a blue Arts Ambassadors (AA) ribbon. Moose Wesler and Larysa Larson, art teachers in K-8 schools in Moraga, have worked tirelessly showing young artists how to prepare their artwork for the exhibit. Karen Moe, Lafayette Partners In Education (LPIE) art and humanities chair, has also put in many hours coordinating 50 artworks from students at



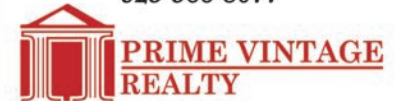
Larysa Larson (center), an art teacher in the Moraga School District, congratulates Aliyah Yang (left) and Mailena Yang (right) who received blue Arts Ambassadors ribbons at their artist reception in 2018.

Stanley Middle School in Lafayette. Maile Nomura, Moraga AA student liaison, is working to coordinate the installation and reception.

Quite a lot is involved in preparation for the show: encouraging children as they create their artwork; preparing each piece for display; transporting art to the [SEE LAC page 10]



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Teenage Art at 16th Annual VAC and Stanley Jazz Ambassadors at Library Gallery

By ELANA O'LOSKEY
Staff Writer

The Lamorinda Arts Council (LAC) showcases 2D, 3D, photography and digital design artworks created by high



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Students, parents, teachers and art lovers are all smiles at last year's Visual Arts Competition awards ceremony and artist reception. This year's student artwork is on display Feb. 14 - Mar. 14.

school students who live in or attend public, private or home schools in Orinda, Lafayette or Moraga at the Art Gallery at the Orinda Library. The Visual Arts Competition (VAC) exhibition will be on display from Feb. 14 to March 14.

The public is invited to attend the free artist reception and awards ceremony on Feb. 20 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. when light refreshments will be served. The Stanley Jazz Ambassadors will entertain attendees with a medley of jazz tunes. Musicians include Riley Daggs on guitar, Dashiell Fabela on drums, Sean McFarlane on bass and Bram Sasner on piano.

All students who attend Acalanes High School District schools including Acalanes, Campolindo, Las Lomas and Miramonte High Schools are eligible for the competition regardless of residence. Past competitions included students from Bentley Upper School, the Orinda Academy, Holden High School and students being [SEE VAC page 15]



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SCHOOLS / STUDENTS

◆ LAC from page 9

Gallery; creating a label for each artwork and arranging for it to be picked up after the exhibit. Wesler says, “Last year’s show was very exciting. It was inspiring to see the variety of artwork in so many different media at all grade levels. We’re looking forward to another great turnout of students and families at the artist reception.”

Approximately 150 student artworks – 100+ from Moraga and 50 from Lafayette – will be exhibited. Moraga schools include Camino Pablo, Donald Rheem, and Los Perales Elementary schools and Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School. Lafayette artwork is from Stanley Middle School. Organizers look forward to meeting Superintendent Bruce Burns from the Moraga School District who will be present

to acknowledge the students at their exhibit.

Denise Nomura, LAC event chair explains, “We are excited to once again host the Lafayette and Moraga Art Ambassadors at the Art Gallery at the Orinda Library. This event will showcase young artists from the K-8 schools in both cities and will exhibit their work in a professional gallery that has a three-year waiting list. I’m looking forward to seeing the kids’ happy faces when they receive their participation ribbons at the reception.”

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 is closed on Feb. 18, President’s Day. Call 925-254-2184 for more information or visit <http://ccclib.org>.

Mats Public Speaking Holds Record-Breaking Food Drive



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

For more than a decade, the **Miramonte Public Speaking** program has maintained the annual tradition of organizing a food drive with the Contra Costa Food Bank. This year’s drive, led by Nisha Andrews, was an overwhelming success. The students encouraged participation by running a class contest, with all five public speaking class periods engaged in a friendly competition to see who could bring in the most donations, with a pizza party and bragging rights at stake. In an incredible show of spirit, 135 students raised a record-breaking 4,130 pounds of food over this year’s two-week drive.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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OUSD Kinder/TK Registration in February

Transitional Kindergarten and Kindergarten registration for children entering an Orinda public school in August 2019 will be open Feb. 4 – 7. On those dates, parents may register their child online at www.orindaschools.org.

Kindergarten students must be at least five years of age on or before September 1, 2019. A child is eligible for Transitional Kindergarten if their fifth birthday is between September 2, and December 2, 2019.

Additional information regarding registration is available at the district website: www.orindaschools.org.

STEAM Registration Open Now

In conjunction with Saint Mary’s College and the Orinda-Moraga-Lafayette branch of the American Association of University Women, the Expanding Your Horizons STEAM conference began registration on Jan. 24. This March 23 conference fills up quickly, so register as early as possible.

For more information and to register, go to <http://www.expandingyourhorizons.org/conferences/AAUWSAINTMARYS/>.


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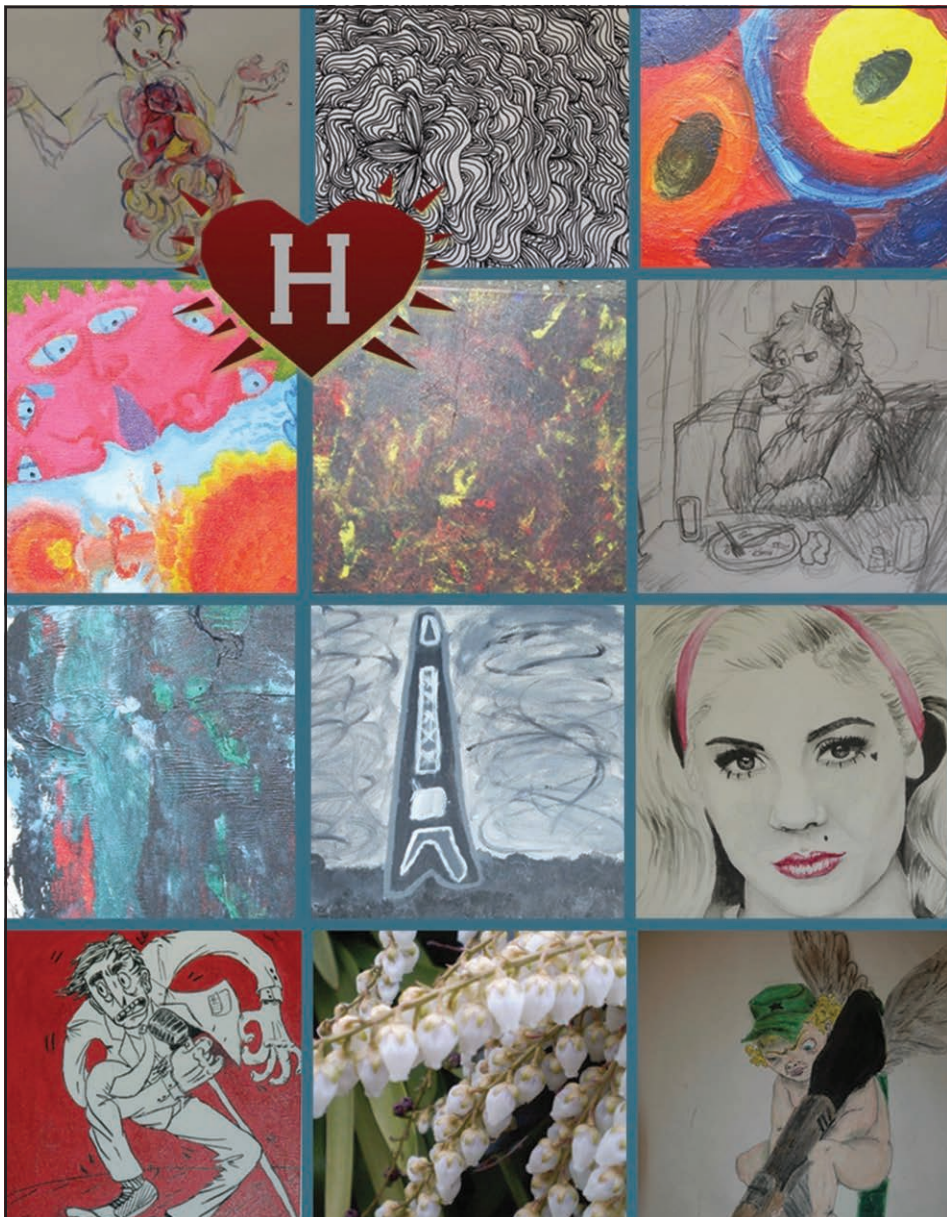
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SCHOOLS / STUDENTS

Holden High Art & Performance Show



CONTRIBUTED ARTWORK

OIS Bands Bring Holiday Cheer to Jelly Belly



SHWETA THOTE

The Orinda Intermediate School String Orchestra and Jazz Band played a holiday concert at the famed Jelly Belly factory in Fairfield on Dec. 15 under the direction of the school's instrumental music teacher, Greg Mazmanian, or Mr. Maz. The ensembles have appeared at the candy factory for several years running and members say they look forward to this "sweet" annual performance.



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Holden High School is hosting its Art & Performance Show Friday, Feb. 1, at Hawk & Pony Café (4210 Telegraph Ave., Oakland), showcasing student art and live performances. The artwork featured in the show is drawn from a wide range of skills, techniques and mediums and will be available for purchase. Guests will also have the opportunity to buy raffle tickets for assorted prizes. Refreshments are for sale at the café, including coffee, soda and alcoholic beverages. Admission is free but organizers are requesting that those planning to attend RSVP at <https://holdenhigh.org/event/art-show>. Holden High School is a "private alternative educational experience" at 10 Irwin Way in Orinda.

For more information about Holden High School, go to <https://holdenhigh.org>, or email office@holdenhigh.org with questions about the event.

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A Riparian Fixer Upper: the Proposed Transformation of San Pablo Creek

Mimi Bommarito



Raise your hand if you've heard about "restoring the creek" in downtown Orinda but have never been quite sure where to find this much-discussed San Pablo Creek. If your hand is waving, don't feel silly. You are not alone.

I assumed the area being considered was the slightly visible portion of this creek that flows past Camino Encinas, near the buildings that house Atma Yoga, Orinda Florist

and ALMA Music. I always questioned how and why anyone would develop that for public enjoyment since it appeared kind of steep and bordered the Highway 24 exit ramp.

So, either I've not been a very observant passenger, or I have been extremely attentive to the road because until recently, I never realized San Pablo Creek continues its route alongside Camino Pablo, the

busy, four-lane thoroughfare Moraga Way turns into once you pass under Highway 24. Understandably, I have been preoccupied, frantically pumping my imaginary floorboard brakes as my teenagers learned to drive, crafting my mental list of what I needed at Safeway or counting the seconds till I picked up my savory takeout from Szechwan and busted into the eggrolls. I never once noticed that behind all of those roadside trees and dense brush, a concealed waterway flows north, toward the San Pablo Reservoir.

Currently, this portion of the creek, which runs from the Chevron station to Safeway, is inaccessible to the public. "Chain link fencing and dense shrubbery make the creek difficult to observe or explore," explains Bob Stroops, president of the Friends of Orinda Creeks (FOOC) organization. But that has not stopped FOOC volunteers from regularly monitoring and recording water quality and habitat health, nor has it encumbered the studies of engineering firms who, over the years since 2001, have worked on a proposal to restore the creek to its former glory.

"Back in the '50s, it was all about concrete," Stroops elucidates. "Developers determined the best approach to convert the land near the creek into retail property was to eliminate the creek's natural 'meander' by paving and rerouting it in a straight line bordered by parking lots on one side and Camino Pablo on the other." The proper term for this is "channelizing."

Cue thunder and lightning, and replay

the old Chiffon Margarine commercials from the '70s that proclaimed, "It's not nice to fool Mother Nature!" Within a few years, the first heavy rains upended and demolished the concrete slabs. Authorities learned the hard way the meander slowed down the forceful flow of water. Large, unsightly chunks of concrete remain in the creek bed today and continue to degrade.

"One of the goals of the proposed restoration is to return the natural meander to the creek," Stroops clarifies, "while also providing embankment stability and increased flood control to protect downtown businesses."

Other visionary goals include adding aesthetic enhancements, paths and bridges to connect to area hiking trails, and a venue for Orindans to relax effortlessly while connecting with nature. Stroops says cities are finally realizing that highlighting nature's amenities, especially a waterway, increases charm and magnetism. And, in turn, let's be practical here, property values.

Stroops and Paul Bettelheim, Past President of Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary, a partner organization supporting this project, emphasize the significant difference between creek beautification and restoration. "To be clear," Stroops maintains, "Our plan is to restore. We could come in, pull out the poison oak and the old concrete slabs and say we have beautified the creek. But what we have spent time and money on, and worked with engineers and council members to develop, is a complete restoration plan."

[SEE CREEK page 16]



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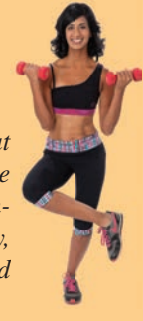
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Fitness Tip of the Month

You Can Break Your Emotional Eating Habits

As you eat well and workout you become super sensitive to what you are consuming. The more fit you become the more obvious the difference is between eating well and not. Eventually your attachments switch from habitual eating to eating for optimized energy, fitness and feeling awesome. Tune in to your fitness experience and your emotional eating habits will fade away.



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BOOKS

Local Sports Writer Brings Legendary St. Mary's Coach Slip Madigan to Life

By KEN HOGARTY
Staff Writer

On Feb. 12 (Lincoln's birthday), from 6 to 7:30 p.m., Orinda Books will host a reading by Dave Newhouse, who retired after 45 years as a sports reporter and columnist, mostly with the *Oakland Tribune*. Newhouse will speak about the fifth book he's published (in addition to two other E-books), a read most apt for his Lamorinda audience entitled *The Incredible Slip Madigan: The Flamboyant Coach Who Modernized Football*.

Newhouse's riveting story tells the tale of the coach who took tiny St. Mary's College to a major Bowl game and a myriad of matches with the football powers of the day before crowds of up to 90,000 people during the roaring '20s and through the Depression. A local story, it's the ultimate tale of the underdog triumphing, while also featuring incredible anecdotes about a bigger-than-life figure that Newhouse accurately characterizes as "a promoter, showman, innovator, raconteur, hustler, celebrity-magnet and giant-maker."

Even after leaving coaching, Madigan (named Slip for his inability to stay on his skates during his Illinois upbringing) cut quite a figure in the Bay Area. After his 1939 parting of the ways with St. Mary's, the 1974 inductee to the College Football Hall of Fame did a favor to a friend and coached the University of Iowa for one year during World War II.

Locally, after helping St. Mary's establish a pre-flight school at the college, which had flirted with bankruptcy in the late '30s, Madigan became the face of Golden Gate Fields for a short time as its general manager and then became a millionaire homebuilder. Many tracts and homes in the Bay Area bear the Madigan name and his son Ed, who lives in the family home in Oakland, still runs that business.

Ed, observing that his dad, a life-long staunch Catholic who met his wife through a priest while playing center for Notre Dame as an underweight undergrad, majored in both architecture and law (an undergraduate degree then) at the iconic university outside of Chicago. Ed avers that this combination contributed to his father's success: "He designed houses and his legal training helped him in the business end."

His love of words from his law courses and Irish story-telling background might also have helped him with refs. "The hat was on the field as much as we were," one player claimed after a game in which Madigan punctuated his running commentary with the refs with the throwing of his iconic hat, a Borsalino, the press (who he cultivated) and his own publicity people (for example, promoting Angelo Brovelli, until then a third string halfback, as the "Dark Angel of the Moragas" after that player's sterling effort in the Gaels' first upset of Fordham in New York City).

Former 49ers Coach George Seifert says

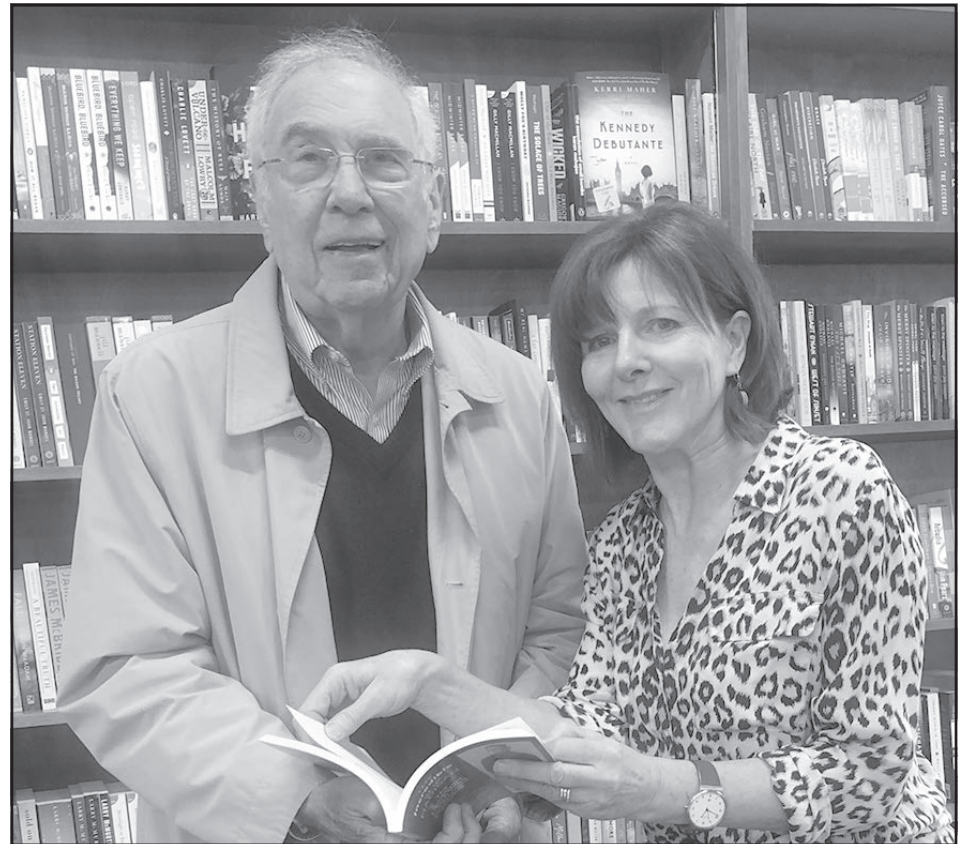
about Madigan, "We all love the story about a person who has the gall to be the best. It motivates our horizon." This surely describes the Fighting Irish graduate who played under the legendary Knute Rockne and made St. Mary's, with an enrollment somewhere between 71 (when Madigan first arrived), 300 (in 1929 right after the college moved from Oakland to rural Moraga), and 600 (in 1938 when the Gaels first played in a Bowl game), the gridiron Notre Dame of the West.

Tiny SMC bested then undefeated Texas Tech in the Cotton Bowl, 20-13, after that '38 season. In 1931, the Gaels (originally called the Saints, but nicknamed the Galloping Gaels by SF sportswriter Pat Frayne) had opened the season with back-to-back wins over ultimate national champion USC and Cal. Stanford refused to schedule the Gaels after losing to them in 1927. Both those '31 USC and '27 Stanford teams won the Rose Bowl on their way to becoming national champions. For his two-decade coaching career in Moraga, Madigan, who also coached many other sports in the '20s, sported a record of 117-45-12 as a Gael coach while taking on numerous then national powers not afraid to schedule the small Moraga college, including Alabama, Marquette, Tulane and Temple.

In the late '20s and early '30s, the Gaels beat UCLA five out of six games and during a seven-game stretch from 1929 to 1935, St. Mary's played Oregon seven times and beat the Ducks in six of the games. From 1923 to 1935, Rival Santa Clara never beat the Gaels, and USF, during that same time period freshly minted as the Dons after being called the St. Ignatius Grey Fog, only beat the Gaels once. Still, it was the road trips that really solidified the Gaels' renown nationally and made Slip Madigan a legend and media darling.

Recruiting many sportswriters and a couple hundred "subway alums," people who hadn't graduated but felt a kinship with the small Catholic college that Madigan dressed in uniforms featuring green pants and satin jerseys with golden harps for some games, joined the Gael traveling party as it took legendary train trips across country to play then national power Fordham in the Big Apple. The first such adventure in 1930 produced a great upset of Fordham, 20-12, which that decade highlighted a "Seven Blocks of Granite" team starring the legendary Vince Lombardi. The Gaels dominated the Rams through the decade until the last three meetings.

Madigan, who had played under the Golden Dome with the equally iconic George Gipp (played in a movie by Ronald Reagan – Madigan was an advisor to Pat O'Brien who played Rockne in that movie), was all about making his own legends. No college team had ever traveled across country to play games before he did just as no major college team had played at night until an early '20's clash with UCLA at the LA Coliseum. The closest was Notre Dame's



ELANA O'LOSKEY

Author **Dave Newhouse**, here with Orinda Books owner **Maria Rosen**, will be appearing at the store on Feb. 12 to read from his book about legendary St. Mary's football coach Slip Madigan.

annual Chicago to LA trip to play USC. Madigan's excursions, first advertised as "The World's Longest Cocktail Party" and usually coupled with another game on the way in Los Angeles, made various stops along the way, inviting much publicity.

After the train stopped in Arizona on the 1938 trip, the Gaels scrimmaged what would become the Arizona State team, practiced against Texas Tech, and then worked out with Loyola in New Orleans. The school did send professors on these trips to keep students learning: "The train [also] served as an elongated classroom. A dozen students were taking Louis LeFevre's History class, a course in historical method and research, and others were in Brother Leo's class preparing for a test on their return." With many alums enjoying post-collegiate success, the Gaels certainly emulated Madigan's love of learning.

Over the years, these junkets, "Slip Madigan's Fordham Football Tour around America/the World," passed through Canada, the National Parks, the White House, the South, Eastern Coastal states, Mexico, and Miami – with a side trip to Havana. The SMC promotion machine really hummed. During a stop at the Grand Canyon, punter Jerry Dowd kicked a football into the Grand Canyon to set the Guinness World Record for longest kick. After the 1930 game, Slip's charges supposedly had stolen the Ram

mascot of Fordham, displayed at a ticker tape parade when the train embarked back by the Bay. In reality, it was another ram he had found and kept in Sacramento.

In another bit of self-promotion, Gael star Jim Austin, with matinee idol looks, got linked with Hollywood bombshell Jean Harlow. The upshot was that when SMC President Brother Albert left an apology for the star for the "false reports," she invited the Christian Brother over for a cocktail while the Gaels were in LA to play Loyola.

[SEE NEWHOUSE page 16]

CONTRA COSTA WATER DISTRICT

◆ MOFD from page 1

posted along the route, recorded time and the number of vehicles while identifying areas subject to congestion. Participants received an email poll later that day to collect feedback on the exercise.

While participants evacuated down Miner Rd., fire apparatus entered the fire zone utilizing other routes. "MOFD uses a traffic separation scheme. When people are in a car and see smoke and embers, they can do erratic things, so you don't want a fire engine responding to a Code 3 on the same road," says Chief Winnacker. "We have maps showing the various areas and which roads could be used for evacuation and which could be used for fire apparatus egress."

In the Moraga drill, which took place Dec. 15, the evacuation route was Moraga Way with Moraga Rd. becoming the means for equipment and personnel to reach the "fire" scene.

Chief Winnacker notes that MOFD learned different things from the Orinda drill. In the Moraga drill, MOFD had partnered with the Moraga Country Club, which had a well-trained staff to provide assistance. It had also used the vacated OSH store as a temporary refugee area (TRA).

North Orinda, however, didn't have an organized entity with which to partner nor was there an ideal TRA.

"The OSH store was a perfect TRA," Winnacker explains. "It's empty and a sprinklered building with exterior under-
eave sprinklers around the entire building. It also has concrete brick walls that do not burn, and it's surrounded by acres of park-

ing lot, which also doesn't burn. You can get lots of people in there and station a fire engine to defend that building. There isn't anything like that in North Orinda."

According to Chief Winnacker, TRAs become very important as evacuation routes reach capacity. A computer model keeps track of vehicles on various routes and notifies incident commanders when particular evacuation routes will reach capacity, allowing the commanders time to stop evacuations before gridlock occurs. They then can also order residents to either shelter in place or go to a TRA. Called an Evacuation Decision Support Tool, the program allows an incident commander to see where problems may occur and craft a solution before complications make a safe response unviable.

Chief Winnacker doesn't plan on having any additional evacuation drills in Lamorinda. "These two drills have validated our assumptions on contra flow traffic techniques and built our experience level. We'll capture every ounce of data, enter it into our computer models and continue to refine and update our evacuation plan. Then we'll publish that for the community."

Unlike the fires in Sonoma and Napa Counties, which often have many tourists visiting the area, Lamorinda has a stable population. "The people here are amazing," says Chief Winnacker. "They are highly engaged and want to do something to help. What we owe them is a comprehensive plan that harnesses their interest and converts it into an understanding of what that plan looks like."

In order to prepare for a potential fire disaster, Chief Winnacker asks all Orindans to sign up for the CWS program to receive notifications. He hopes that the CWS program in addition to text, voice and email messages will reach the majority of local residents in the event of a disaster. He also requests that residents take as few cars as possible during an evacuation to keep from clogging up escape routes. He further stresses that residents should have a "go bag" ready with clothing and medications for three days to facilitate quickly leaving their homes.

To lessen fire danger in the first place, Chief Winnacker recommends clearing dead and dying trees and dry brush on your property as well as moving wood piles away from the house. He further encourages talking with neighbors to have them do the same, which would essentially create a fire break.

"People can call us, and we'll come out and evaluate their property. We have 14,000 parcels in the district and only a small number are compliant with fire safety measures," Winnacker says.

Legislation Introduced to Upgrade Contra Costa's Water Infrastructure



COURTESY OF TRIP ADVISOR

Contra Costa Canal trail in Pleasant Hill.

By AIMEE WALL
Contributing Writer

Congressman Mark DeSaulnier (CA-11) and Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) introduced legislation to improve the safety and upkeep of important water supply infrastructure. The Contra Costa Canal Transfer

Act (H.R. 432/S. 93) would transfer the title of the Contra Costa Canal System from the Bureau of Reclamation to the Contra Costa Water District (CCWD), enabling the CCWD to undertake necessary upgrades to the system. On Jan. 10, the bill was introduced in the house and, subsequently, [SEE CCWD page 18]

◆ MAYOR from page 1

ing to be scheduled for spring 2019 will provide detailed information on the projects the City Council has selected for inclusion in the Streetscape Master Plan.

The Streetscape Master Plan touches on San Pablo Creek, but Mayor Miller hopes to work with residents and business owners to highlight this natural resource and make it a focal point for people coming downtown.

"The creek is this wonderful resource that was covered up many years ago," Miller says. "Many residents don't even know it's there because it's behind buildings. We need to research funding methods to restore this wonderful community treasure."

Another priority the new mayor noted involved reimbursement for the Miner Road sink hole. When the emergency happened in early January, 2017, Orinda marshalled its resources to fix the Miner Road bridge as soon as possible. Although the city applied for FEMA and state help, the money has been slow in coming. "Luckily our insurer has lent us money. But that is a loan. We need to see the real money from the federal and state governments," says Miller.

Miller also noted that many residents anxiously await the opening of the Art and Garden Center in Wilder, which should take place in the spring. "We are a tiny city with a skeleton staff. The center has presented challenges and some retooling of our efforts, but it will be open soon and will be a fine addition to our city."

As Miller begins her first term as mayor, she thanks City Manager Steve Salomon for his expertise and the many assets he brings to his job. "We're so fortunate that he came as our interim city manager and then agreed to stay on," says Miller. "He's such a tremendous repository of knowledge and a great leader of our wonderful staff."

Miller, who is the granddaughter of award-winning journalist/photographer Wayne Miller, is the sole practitioner of Miller Property Law. Originally in Orinda, the firm moved to San Francisco when Inga Miller became a city councilmember. "I wanted to work on downtown issues in Orinda and didn't want a conflict of interests," she explains.

The lawyer began her career as a journalist, first with her college newspaper at UC Santa Cruz before going on to the *Fairfield Daily Republic*, the *Tri-Valley Herald* (now folded into the *East Bay Times*) and the *Modesto Bee*. "I was in one of the last news bureaus that the now *East Bay Times* had. As the company was purchased and writers let go, I could see the writing on the wall and decided to go to law school."

Miller did an internship at the law firm where her mother, Leslie Johnson, was a founding partner. Miller worked in litigation with another partner before transitioning into her mother's specialty: transactional law. After several years, Miller started her own firm in 2016.

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SENIORS / FILM

Keeping Seniors “Well Connected”

By BOBBIE DODSON
Staff Writer

If you are an older adult who perhaps can't get out as much as you once did; who might be feeling a bit lonely; or who would like to keep on learning and exploring new ideas, there's a solution for you.

“Well Connected” is a phone and online program offering activities, education, friendly conversation and an assortment of classes and support groups, all from the comfort of home and free of charge. Sponsored by Covia, “Well Connected,” which engages more than 1,400 participants across 40 states, began right in this area with offices in San Francisco.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Orinda resident **Rosalee Biasatti** participates in Well Connected's phone- and online-based discussion groups.

Covia's main office is in Walnut Creek. “Grounded in Episcopal values,” it describes its mission as “promoting positive

aging by cultivating healthy and engaged communities with a continuum of innovative services that actively support intellectual, physical, emotional, spiritual and social well-being.” Covia operates a number of housing communities in the Bay Area, including St. Paul's Towers in Oakland.

Josephine, a participant in “Well Connected,” says, “I have met so many new friends. Calling into the groups gives me a feeling of contentment, and I am so touched by the care people have for each other.” Sally, a participant and volunteer explains, “‘Well Connected’ is a wonderful source of psychic nourishment. I call every Wednesday to Greg Pond's poetry reading and always enjoy it. Social Call has provided me with two wonderful younger friends who are like family.”

Amber Carroll, director at “Well Connected,” tells about Linnie, a valued facilitator and participant for more than a decade. “Over the years, she's facilitated hundreds of groups including ‘Keys to Joy,’ a philosophical discussion group, ‘Gratitude,’ our most popular group which occurs twice a day every day of the year, and ‘Living Through Dying,’ a group for older adults to discuss the process of dying in a supportive peer space.”

To become a participant, call 877-797-7299. You will be asked basic questions like your address and phone number, and then you are enrolled. A schedule of all the activities will be mailed to you. Join as many as you like. All the activities are staffed by trained volunteers, most of whom are participants themselves. Carroll says, “In addition to them, we partner with universities, museums, research institutes and other professionals, families, friends and people we meet who have interesting stories to tell.” Participants call in to dialogue or listen to facilitated small group discussions about a myriad of topics.

Offerings vary from Armchair Travel,

and Honorable Mention \$25. The Best of Show award is \$300. Professional artists judge the work based on creativity and originality; content; and degree of expertise in the chosen medium.

Without the Lamorinda high school art teachers, none of this would be possible. They put in hours of dedication to guide students through the process of creating, registering and preparing artwork for exhibition in a professional gallery. Join everyone at the artist reception and thank any teachers you meet for their encouragement of these young volunteers.

Denise Nomura, VAC event chair, expresses gratitude to fellow LAC member Jenny Staelin, board chairperson, and volunteers Lori Brook and Aniston-Maylee

Now Playing in Orinda: *What Will People Say*



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

This month Lamorinda's International Film Showcase is featuring ***What Will People Say***, an award-winning film that was submitted as Norway's entry for Best Foreign Language Film for this year's Academy Awards. Written and directed by Iram Haq, the gripping drama tells the story of Nisha, a teenage girl growing up in Norway whose world is utterly transformed when her Pakistani parents abruptly move her from the only country she's ever known to a small town in Pakistan. Once there, she struggles to adapt to a rigid culture that denies her many of the freedoms she once took for granted, while trying to find a way to escape back to her old life. The film is showing at the Orinda Theatre Feb. 8-14 and the Rheem Theatre from Feb. 15-21. For further information or to watch the trailer go to www.internationalshowcase.org.

Bingo and Bird Talk to Learning Spanish, Museums at Home and Pet Tales.” Participants can play a game, learn a language, write a poem, share grateful thoughts, get support, and, most importantly, connect and engage with others every day across the country. All groups are accessible by phone and many are also online. There are guidelines to maintain confidentiality (the reason only first names were used above), use technology, and ensure group etiquette.

“Well Connected” is accessible to low vision and blind participants with materials available in large print, Braille and audio. Marie is a facilitator and Social Call volunteer who lost her eyesight in 2013.

She relies on Google to help her make calls. Program specialist Pat Schroeder, enthuses, “‘Well Connected’ is a win-win program. It connects people all over the United States as they participate in phone activities in ways that enable them to make new friends, learn new things and significantly use their lifetime of experiences and wisdom to share their talents and knowledge as facilitators. Do give us a try and see how ‘Well Connected’ can enrich your life.”

◆ VAC from page 9

home schooled. About 200 works of art are expected.

The registration deadline is Feb. 8, at midnight (go to <https://lamorindaarts.org/vac>); intake of artwork will take place on Feb. 12 from noon to 6 p.m. at the Art Gallery in the Orinda Library. Categories include: 2D artwork – paintings, drawings, printmaking, mixed media and collage; 3D artwork – ceramics, sculpture, jewelry, construction; and photography/digital design – traditional film and digital design.

The LAC awards cash prizes in each category, with four award levels: First Place \$300, Second Place \$200, Third Place \$100

Breslin for their help. Co-sponsors of the event include Lafayette Partners in Education (LPIE), Moraga Education Foundation (MEF) and the Educational Foundation of Orinda (EFO).

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 to 5 p.m. The library is closed on Feb. 18, President's Day. Call 925-254-2184 for more information or visit <http://ccclib.org>.

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COMPASS

CALENDAR

ON THE CALENDAR

FEBRUARY

- 1 **Mindful Littles**, 1 p.m. Weekly Yoga/Mindfulness with Special Friends, \$18 per person; Partnering with Las Trampas to offer a unique class to connect and be heartfelt with friends who have developmental disabilities. For families with kids 4-11. Also, every Friday. Register, at: <https://mindfullittles.org/>.
- First Friday Forum**, 1:30 p.m. "Stigma, Mental Illness and Families: The Next Frontier," in the Sanctuary of Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church, 49 Knox Drive, Lafayette. See article this page.
- 3 **Orinda Books**, 6 p.m. Tamara Ireland Stone launches *Swap'd* (Click'd, Book 2)*
- Orinda Community Church**, 11:30 a.m. Documentary *Before the Flood*, a film examining climate change. Fellowship Hall. See article p. 8.
- 5 **Mindful Littles**, 1:30 p.m. Weekly Building Blankets and Warming Hearts, Las Trampas, 3460 Lana Lane, Lafayette, CA 94549. Help prepare around 200 blankets for Trevor's Eagle Project Foundation. These blankets will be donated to Oakland Children's hospital to help keep their patients warm this winter. For families with kids 4-11. Also, every Tuesday.
- Art Gallery at the Orinda Library**, 4 to 6 p.m. Lafayette and Moraga Arts Ambassadors Wake Up Gallery with Student Art, K-8 student artist reception with light refreshments. See article p. 15.
- 7 **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, Feb. 14, 21 and 28.*
- Orinda Community Foundation**, 5-6 p.m. at Dick Heggie Plaza, adjacent to the Orinda Library Gallery, recognition of grant recipients.
- 8 **International Film Showcase**, *What Will People Say*. Submitted by Norway for an Oscar this year. This film won 13 international awards around the world. Showing for one week. For information, go to www.internationalshowcase.org.
- 9 **Mindful Littles**, 10:30 a.m. Kindness Book Club. Orinda Library (Garden Room), 26 Orinda Way. Register at <https://mindfullittles.org/>.
- 11 **Orinda Books**, 2 p.m. The Poetry Circle will discuss Emily Dickinson. They meet monthly at Orinda Books and welcome anyone interested in poetry.
- 12 **Orinda Books**, 6 to 7:30 p.m. Dave Newhouse reads from *The Incredible Slip Madigan - The Flamboyant Coach Who Modernized Football*. See article p. 13.*
- 13 **Orinda Books**, 3 p.m. The 2nd Wednesday Book Group will read and discuss "*Commonwealth*" by Ann Patchett. They meet monthly at Orinda Books and welcome new members.*
- 17 **Mindful Littles**, 11 a.m. Valentines Party with Special Friends, at Las Trampas, 3460 Lana Lane, Lafayette, CA 94549; Cost: \$20. Warm your heart and share the love with enriching games, meaningful activities, and creative art projects. Kids 4-11 accompanied by an adult. Register at <https://mindfullittles.org/>.
- Live At The Orinda**, 7 p.m. Carolee Carmello, three-time Tony nominated Broadway star, lamorindatheatres.com for tickets.
- 19 **Orinda Books**, 9:30 a.m. (6 weeks). Tuesday Morning Writing Workshop with Andrea Firth in her Moraga writing studio. For writers with some experience; all genres welcome. To register: andrea@diablowriters.org or 925.878.1389. For more information, please visit diablowriters.org.
- Orinda Books**, 11:30 a.m. Literary Luncheon: Alan Brenner presents *Daughter of Moloka'i*. \$20.00 includes lunch, plus \$5.00 off the price of the book. Call 925-254-7606 to reserve your seat!*
- 20 **Art Gallery at the Orinda Library**, 7 to 8:30 p.m. Teenage Art at 16th Annual VAC and Stanley Jazz Ambassadors, enjoy light refreshments and jazz tunes at the awards ceremony and artist reception. See article p. 15. Exhibit runs Feb. 14 to Mar. 14.
- 21 **Saint Mary's College Guild**, 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Fun and Games Day, Soda Activity Center, 1928 St. Mary's Road, Moraga. See article p. 4.
- 23 **Mardi Gras Gala**, 6 p.m. Fun-filled evening including a delicious French meal, live music and fantastic auction items all benefiting research leading to a cure for Crohn's Disease. For more information, go to www.propelacure.org/events/.
- 26 **Orinda Books**, 11:30 a.m. Literary Luncheon: Christopher Castellani presents *Leading Men*. \$20.00 includes lunch, plus \$5.00 off the price of the book. Call 925-254-7606 to reserve your seat!*
- Women of Spirit Gathering**, 7 p.m. Women seeking connection, shared learning and growth with other women of diverse faith traditions. Inspiring speakers, discussion at table groups. We are not affiliated with any religious institution, and are open to all. For more information, see www.facebook.com/womenofspiritlamorinda.
- Orinda Theatre**, 6:30 p.m. Free Movie Night presents *Love in the Afternoon*, Orinda Theatre, lamorindatheatres.com.

* **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.ccclib.org/locations/Orinda.html. The Library will be closed on Feb. 18 for President's Day.
- 2 **Lion Dance**. 2:30 p.m. Concord Kung Fu Academy will perform a traditional Chinese lion dance in the Library Garden Room in celebration of Lunar New Year. See article p. 6.
- 4 **Maker Monday**. 2:30 - 3:30 p.m. Whether it's Legos, a craft, or Minecraft, something is always happening on Monday. Suitable for elementary school children. Also, Feb. 11, 18, and 25.
- 5 **Toddler Stay and Play**. 10- 11 a.m. Enjoy gentle play in the Gallery Room. Also, Feb. 6.
- Baby Stay and Play**. 11:30 a.m. - noon. Pre-walkers and their caregivers can enjoy gentle play in the Gallery Room. Also Feb. 6.
- Orinda Library Writers Group**. 6:30 - 8 p.m. Orinda Library Group Study Room A. Meet with a friendly group of beginning writers in a supportive environment to motivate, critique and inspire one another. Share two pages of your writing (any genre) and get feedback from the group. Also Feb. 19.
- 6 **Paws to Read**. 3:30 - 4:30 p.m. Children in grades 1- 5 can practice reading skills with a friendly dog. To sign up for a session please call or visit the library. Also Feb. 13, 20 and 27. Sponsored by the Friends of the Orinda Library.
- 7 **Computer Help**. 1 - 2 p.m. (Also at 2 p.m.) Receive help on computer matters from a knowledgeable volunteer. Registration required. Focus on beginning users. Also Feb. 14, 21 and 28.
- ESL Conversation Group**. Local volunteer ESL teachers lead group discussions with ESL learners. Free and open to all. Come talk and learn English with us! Library Study Room

Professor/Author to Discuss Families and Mental Illness at Next Forum

By BOBBIE DODSON
Staff Writer

Join First Friday Forum (FFF) on Feb. 1 at 1:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary of Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church, 49 Knox Drive, Lafayette, when Professor Stephen Hinshaw will present a lecture, "Stigma, Mental Illness and Families: The Next Frontier."

Dr. Hinshaw's latest book, *Another Kind of Madness: A Journey Through the Stigma and Hope of Mental Illness*, chronicles his father's recurring mental illness and the doctor-enforced silence surrounding it, plus the huge need to combat the stigma that encompasses it. Because he has lived with this problem, Hinshaw is eminently qualified to discuss the subject.

Hinshaw says, "Despite far greater knowledge of the 'facts' about mental disorders in present time, attitudes have hardly budged since the middle of the 20th century." In his presentation he defines the concept of stigma, emphasizes how it thwarts the seeking of assessment and treatment, and provides vivid examples related to his own personal and family story.

He also portrays the consequences to
[SEE FFF page 18]



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Professor **Stephen Hinshaw** will discuss how families can overcome the stigma of mental illness at the First Friday Forum on Feb. 1.

- A 1 - 2:30 p.m. Also Feb. 14, 21 and 28.
- 11 **Introduction to Chinese Brush Painting**. 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. A four part series for beginners as well as intermediate learners. Art materials will be provided. Registration is required, space is limited.
- A Life Rebuilt: The Remarkable Transformation of a War Orphan**. 1 - 2 p.m. Born in 1939 Belgium, Sylvia Ruth Gutmann became an orphan at age three when her parents were sent to their deaths at Auschwitz. In her debut memoir she chronicles her escape to Switzerland with her two sisters, their arrival in New York to the home of her uncle and his abusive wife, and her struggles to overcome the trauma of her childhood.
- 15 **Mystery Book Club**. 3 - 4:30 p.m. Join the Orinda Mystery Book Club to discuss this month's choice: "*The Dry*" by Jane Harper. Library Study Room A.
- 19 **Humanities West Fireside Chat**. 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. Join George Hammond of Humanities West for a fireside chat on Leonardo da Vinci. The mythologized Leonardo is the quintessential "Renaissance man" whose paintings and drawings inspire and whose inventions still fascinate us. The historical Leonardo is a uniquely appealing window into the society and culture of Renaissance Italy. More information about Humanities West and other events at www.humanitieswest.net.
- 28 **Contra Costa Tale Spinners**. 7 - 9 p.m. Join this lively group to tell or listen. This is storytelling for adults with a featured teller every month.

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: gcmzee@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 ejewing@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. Feb. 1: Don Jenkins - all about the Rotary Foundation; Feb. 8: Dave Kemnitz, Director of Klunkers4Charity; Feb. 15: Ed Daley with high speed action from the Patriots Jet Team!; Feb. 22: Member Exposé, Grace Richter tells all (almost).
- Lamorinda Toastmasters**. Every Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., Temple Isaiah, 945 Risa Road, Lafayette.

[SEE CALENDAR page 18]

CONTINUATIONS

SCHOOL CALENDAR

FEBRUARY

- 1 **Holden High School**, 7 - 9 p.m. Holden's Art & Performance Show at Hawk & Pony Cafe (4210 Telegraph Avenue, Oakland); Admission is FREE
- Miramonte High School**, 7- 9 p.m. Public Speaking Showcase.
- 4-7 **OUSD Kinder/TK Registration**. 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. See box p. 10.
- 4 **Miramonte High School**, 6 p.m. Sports Booster Meeting.
- 5 **Miramonte High School**, 7:30 p.m. Freshman Parent Group.
- 6 **Acalanes Union High School District**, Governing Board Meeting.
- 7 **Miramonte High School**, 7 p.m. Senior Parent Meeting.
- 11 **Orinda Union School District**, 6 p.m. Board Meeting.
- 12 **Holden High School**, 11 a.m. Orinda Woman's Club Talent Show.
- Miramonte High School**, 7:30 p.m. Sophomore Parent Group
- 13 **Holden High School**, 6:30 p.m. Parent's Support Group.
- Del Rey Elementary School**, 7 p.m. Parent Club Meeting.
- 15-18 **Schools Closed** for President's Day weekend.
- 19 **Miramonte High School**, 7:30 p.m. Junior Parent Group.
- 21 **Wagner Ranch Elementary School**, Site Council Meeting.
- Del Rey Elementary School**, Science Fair.
- 26 **Miramonte High School**, 7:30 p.m. Senior Parent Group.
- 18-22 **Orinda Academy, Schools Closed** for President's Day weekend.
- 21 **Glorietta Elementary School**, Coordinating Council Meetings.
- Sleepy Hollow Elementary School**, School Site Council Meeting.
- 28 **Del Rey Elementary School**, 9 a.m. Orinda Intermediate School, Band Concert.

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

◆ **CCWD** from page 14

referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources.

"The aging Contra Costa Canal is in need of critical safety and structural improvements to prevent accidents, water leaks and water quality degradation," said Congressman Mark DeSaulnier. "By transferring ownership of the canal from the federal government to the Contra Costa Water District, we can help streamline these improvements and revitalize the land surrounding the canal for the enjoyment of local residents. I thank Senator Feinstein for her partnership on this legislation, which promises to benefit our local communities."

"This is commonsense legislation to facilitate much-needed safety improvements to the Contra Costa Canal," said Senator Feinstein. "If the water district

is willing and ready to make these improvements, there's no reason the federal government should stand in the way. Transferring the title will help save lives and modernize the Contra Costa Canal system."

Built between 1937 and 1948, the Contra Costa Canal delivers water both to homes and businesses throughout Contra Costa County, and also to the Sacramento and San Joaquin Valleys for irrigation. The 48-mile canal system is currently exposed but, following the transfer, the CCWD will work to enclose it in a surface tunnel. Since the Contra Costa Canal has been operational, 81 people have drowned in the canal. H.R. 432/S. 93 would help eliminate safety risks while maintaining recreation opportunities, including restoring land located in the Concord Naval Weapons Station.

"Gaining title of the Contra Costa Canal is so very important as we look at the future of this critical facility," said Lisa Borba, president of the Contra Costa Water District's Board of Directors. "We thank Congressman DeSaulnier and Senator Dianne Feinstein for all the work they are doing to move this bill to a successful outcome."

"The Contra Costa Canal Transfer Act has the Park District's support and ensures the existing recreation agreement for Contra Loma Regional Park and Contra Costa Canal Trail continues and is recognized in the legislation. We thank Rep. Desaulnier and Sen. Feinstein for their leadership to pass the Contra Costa Canal Transfer Act and continued support for the East Bay Regional Parks," said Robert Doyle, General Manager, East Bay Regional Park District.

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CALENDAR from page 18

<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 gmozee@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. Feb. 15, Pruning Tips, with Scott Paris, owner of Maple Rock Gardens, a landscaping gem and year-round farm which is opened to the public a few times a year.
- Orinda Association**. Second Monday, 7 p.m., Orinda Library, May Room, 925-254-0800.
- Orinda Chamber of Commerce**, Board meeting on 3rd Wednesday of the month. For more info. contact Cindy Powell, Executive Director - Orinda Chamber of Commerce; 925-254-3909; Orindachamber.org.
- 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.
- 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. Crab Feed Feb. 2, 6 p.m. "All You Can Eat" with wine to help wash it down. Orinda Masonic Hall. \$55.00 per person and reservations can be made at cowlesbluepines@comcast.net. Dress is crab casual.
- 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. 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

◆ **FFF** from page 17

families when shame and silence are ordered by doctors, in the name of protecting children. Much of the material in this presentation is based on his book, which was recently awarded Best Book of 2018 in the category of Autobiography/Memoir, by American Book Fest.

Stephen Hinshaw is Professor of Psychology at UC Berkeley, where he was department chair from 2004 to 2011. He is also professor of psychiatry and vice-chair for child and adolescent psychology at UC San Francisco. He received his BA from Harvard (summa cum laude) and after directing school programs and residential summer camps, his doctorate in clinical psychology from UCLA. His work focuses on developmental psychopathology, clinical interventions with children and adolescents, and mental illness stigma.

Hinshaw's research efforts have been recognized by his receiving the Distinguished

Scientist Award from the Association for Psychological Science, its highest award, and the Distinguished Teaching Award from UC Berkeley. He has been featured regularly in the media, including the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Huffington Post*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Today Show*, *CBS Evening News*, *ABC World News*, and many more. He lives in Berkeley with his wife, Kelly Campbell. They have three sons.

"Family secrets still abound, whether they pertain to parents, children, siblings or multiple generations. Some of the most telling relate to the still-hidden and still-shameful topics of mental illness," Hinshaw states.

"This will be a rare opportunity to have the topic brought out into the open and discussed by such an eminent scholar," says Caroline Giers, a member of the FFF team. He extends the invitation: "Come and invite your friends to this free lecture. Refreshments will be served in Fellowship Hall at 1 p.m."

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BUSINESS BUZZ

◆ BUZZ from page 20

with him 20 years or more. This proved to be both providential and deleterious. Deleterious in that he had a good offer, except that this condition would not be met. He turned it down. Providentially, his cousin Levon Der Bedrossian, with whom he had been in partnership all along, decided to take over Garbis' portion of the ownership and keep all the staff.

Garbis attributes the long success of his restaurant to the combined efforts of his staff and their dedication to providing delicious food night after night with sincerity and good humor. It is important to him to express his gratitude to staff members he has worked with over the past three-plus decades. The veteran list includes: Rene Bogran; Ramon and Vidal Meriscal; Rogelio; Rayito; Betty Munoz; Emily O'Hallam; Cheppe; Yekatarina; Hugo Lastra; Michaela; Mimi; Alejandra Munoz and, finally, his son Ara, daughter Tara Bagdassarian and wife Silva.

In December, staff and family gave him a combination birthday and retirement party. When asked about his retirement plans he says with a laugh, "My wife has a list" Travel is on the horizon as they both want to visit their daughter Tara in Armenia. But their garden in Orinda beckons to him as well.

Garbis and his wife Silva Zobian are proud of their children, Miramonte grads Ara and Tara, now all grown up and pursuing meaningful careers. Ara is co-founder and chief operating officer of Verdical Hydroponics. Based in Oakland, it designs hydroponic indoor farming systems (see <http://verdical.io>). Tara works for PicsArt, which also has a San Francisco presence, at its Armenian

location. It's an image editing, collage and drawing application and a social network. "Tara loves it," says Garbis (see <https://picsart.com>).

What's going on at La Med? Alicia Vanden Heuvel, general manager, reminds us that the new owner, Levon Der Bedrossian and Garbis are cousins and have always owned La Med together. Now that Garbis has sold his interest, Levon owns all four locations (three in S.F. and one in Berkeley). Levon is sending Alicia, together with his son Vanick, to take over front of house and kitchen management in Berkeley. Alicia reassures patrons that the same experienced, committed staff of veteran servers and cooks remain secure in their positions.

Expect some new menu items such as falafel, chicken shawerma, saffron kebabs, house made sangria and \$10 off bottled wine specials on Monday and Tuesday. The weekend brunch menu sports a new dish, shakshuka – a traditional Middle Eastern egg dish with tomatoes and spices, served with zaatar and olive oil pita bread. Visit the refurbished La Mediterrannée at 2936 College Ave., Berkeley, call them at 510-540-7773 or go online to www.cafelamed.com.

Orindans, look out for Garbis, who now has time to relax at local cafés, look for history books at Orinda Books, enjoy art at the Library Gallery and catch dinner and a movie at the Orinda Theatre. You'll have no trouble talking with him, because he speaks Armenian, French, English, Arabic, some Turkish, some Greek and some Spanish. We at *The Orinda News* salute your 35+ years at La Med and wish you every happiness in retirement.

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

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"She's fun to hang out with too."

Laura helped us sell my parents' home in Orinda. She was amazing. Knowledgeable, hard working and went beyond what one would normally expect in a broker. She truly advocated for us and gave excellent advice in the negotiation process. Then she helped us with getting the house ready to hand over, arranging trash pickup, donations and coordinating with movers. Highly recommend her - ours was a challenging property to sell.

Marian B.

Laura is our family realtor and over time has become a good friend. She is the most hard-working agent in Orinda. Overseeing every aspect of preparing our homes for the market, skillfully marketing the property, preparing our disclosures, and tirelessly working the transaction. Her negotiating skills are unmatched. We have been on the buying side and the selling side with Laura and she works both with ease. We recently moved from Orinda to an area Laura does not work and only then did we realize the true quality of service we have come to expect from a Realtor. Laura sets the bar and then exceeds it.

Randy H.

Laura has earned her way to become our family's realtor by helping us find and win bids on three houses in the last five years. Laura has the brain of a contract lawyer, has absorbed the knowledge of structural and soils engineers, and will discuss both the pros and cons of any place you are considering. She has helped us win the competitive bidding processes with multiple offers where we were not the highest bid, not once but twice. It is her relationships and the terms she has recommended that have gotten us the homes we wanted.

Matt S.

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BUSINESS BUZZ

Business Buzz Putting a Personal Face on Local Business

Elana O’Loskey



Tom “T.J.” D’Amato, D’Amato Law, 25 Orinda Way, Suite 308

Tom D’Amato opened D’Amato Law offices in Orinda in 2017. The team he works with includes his wife Crystal, director of legal operations, paralegal Gina Taber and Tomislav Peraic, a practicing attorney. Photographs printed on glass, many boasting views of the California we all love and all shot by a friend, festoon the practice’s spacious office. “We like working in this location and have no plans to move,” says D’Amato with a smile.

D’Amato’s client base includes lawyers, law firms, real estate brokers and agents, nonprofit officers and directors, architects, engineers, design professionals, insur-

ance brokers and agents, accountants and other professionals. D’Amato, a graduate of Hastings College of the Law and a certified specialist in legal malpractice law, is one of only two attorneys licensed to do so in Contra Costa County. In 2018, he and Christopher Whang spoke at a presentation hosted by Hoge Fenton Jones and Appel entitled “Competency and Attorney Well-Being.”

When T.J., as he prefers to be called, and Crystal moved to Orinda in 2006, they thought of the graduation parties they would have for their children. Now Crystal is a volunteer at Sleepy Hollow Elementary where 10-year-old Wyatt is enrolled; Cassidy, age seven, is in first grade. The



ELANA O’LOSKEY

T.J. D’Amato of D’Amato Law was named president of the Orinda Chamber of Commerce in December.

entire family enjoys outings such as snow skiing at Tahoe and water skiing in the Delta. Crystal says, “Like most people in Orinda, we love spending time with our kids.”

Being a civic minded kind of guy, T.J. joined the Orinda Chamber of Commerce two years ago and has enjoyed learning about local business owners and their needs. In December, he was named president. Current board members include Vice President Juliet Don of Chevron; Secretary and Volunteer Chair Holly Henkel of Compass; and Treasurer Ally Fattore of Mechanics Bank Orinda. Past President Roy Hodgkinson and Executive Director Cindy Powell are also part of this energetic team.

Having served on the board of the Defense Research Institute, T.J. is no stranger to a working board of directors. He sums up his focus for chamber activities in 2019 in three words: Organize – Energize – Grow. The team will focus on advocating not only for storefront businesses such as retail and restaurants, but also the hidden business in Orinda: IT and virtual businesses, nonprofits, start-ups and home-based businesses. Promoting women business leaders is at the top of the list. The board’s message to Orinda businesses is: Join us – we are busy creating a growing, thriving and relevant chamber in 2019!

To catch up with T.J. at D’Amato Law, drop by 25 Orinda Way, Suite 308, Orinda, M-F 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., call 925-317-1300 or visit www.damatolawcorp.com. To learn more about the Orinda

Chamber of Commerce contact Volunteer Chair Holly Henkel at 925-360-2390, holly@hollyhenkel.com or visit www.orindachamber.org.

Garbis Bagdasarian Retires after 35+ Years at La Méditerranée, 2936 College Ave., Berkeley

When Garbis Bagdasarian decided to sell La Méditerranée in Berkeley, one of his conditions was that the existing staff retain jobs as many of them have been

[SEE BUZZ page 19]



ELANA O’LOSKEY

Orinda resident **Garbis Bagdasarian** recently retired after more than 35 years as owner of La Méditerranée Restaurant on College Avenue in Berkeley.

FEBRUARY’S FEATURE

ORINDA COUNTRY CLUB CHARMER

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*per public records



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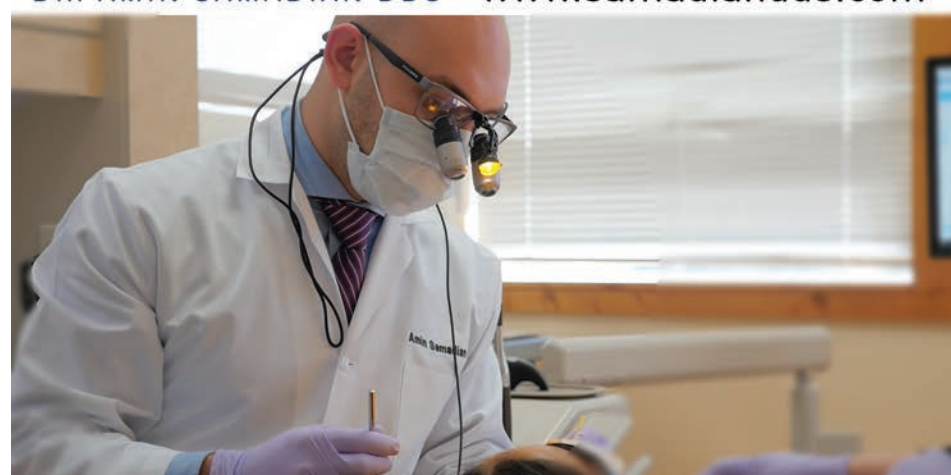
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- Jan. 1 -** Happy New Year! City Offices Closed. OYS Spring Baseball/Softball registration opens!
- Jan. 2-4 -** Wide Variety of Holiday Break Camps for Children – Carpentry, Comic Books, Cooking, Hip Hop Dance, Musical Theater, Tennis, Basketball - Sign-up Now!
- Jan. 15 -** Now Accepting Applications for Summer Camp Counselor positions.
- Jan. 21 -** M.L. King, Jr. Day; City Offices Closed
- Jan. 22 -** Premier World Presentation (Extended Travel Program); 10:30 a.m.; FREE; Register Now!
- Jan.30-** Senior Trip - California Academy of Sciences; 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; \$71/person; Register Now!
Wisdom Workshop – USS Potomac Presentation; 10:30 a.m.; FREE; Register Now!



Orinda Parks and Recreation Department
925-254-2445
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.